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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 1996*

The report of the Council for the year 1996 is being issued in three parts and in a new format. Part I contains the foreword by the President of the Council and chapters I-IV, relating to the high-level, coordination and operational activities segments of the work of the Council. Part II contains chapters V-VII, which cover the general segment, elections and organizational matters. Part III contains the annexes to the report. The section of the report of the Council relating to the resumed substantive session of 1996 will be issued as part IV.

The resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council are included in the relevant sections of the report, corresponding to the agenda items under which they were adopted, as are the summary of the President on the high-level segment (chapter II) and the agreed conclusions of the coordination segment (chapter III).

* The Present document is part I of the preliminary version of the report of the Economic and Social Council for 1996. The final report will be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/51/3/Rev.1).

The resolutions and decisions will be issued in final form in Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 1 (E/1996/96).

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* Chapter is contained in part II of the present report.

** The annexes are contained in part III of the present report.

Foreword by Ambassador Jean-Marie Kacou Gervais, President of the Economic and Social Council

The 1996 substantive session of the Council represented both an end and a beginning. It was the last occasion on which the Council conducted its deliberations according to the format established by the General Assembly in its resolution 48/162. At the same time, the Council began the process of implementing Assembly resolution 50/227, entitled "Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields", in which the Assembly introduced a new framework for the functioning of the Council. I am pleased that the Council adopted significant legislation in a number of areas during its substantive session and took steps in the innovative direction charted by the Assembly in its resolution 50/227. I believe in particular that Member States can view with favour the outcomes of the coordination and operational activities segments and the adoption of important resolutions, among others, on non-governmental organizations, and the follow-up to major United Nations conferences, collaboration with the Bretton Woods institutions, prevention and control of human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) and humanitarian assistance.

In viewing the work of the various segments of the Council, it seems clear that its high-level segment, while having a considerable potential for success, still leaves much to be desired. Without a doubt, the presence of the executive heads of the international financial and trade institutions is essential with respect to having a meaningful policy dialogue during the high-level segment. The absence of most of the executive heads at this year's substantive session weakened the dialogue significantly. As for the remainder of the high-level segment, having a well-defined topical subject of high international priority contributed to a more focused debate and to broader ministerial participation. The high-level segment still lacks two essential ingredients, however - first, a clear and definitive outcome and second, a vigorous and straightforward dialogue among the participants. I trust that the proposal to have agreed conclusions emanating from the high-level segment beginning with next year will ensure a more definitive outcome. With regard to dialogue among the participants, I would note that, although the speeches are an integral part of the high-level segment, the segment should not be confined to statements alone. Indeed, ways need to be found to ensure a more disciplined presentation of statements by all concerned coupled with an opportunity for structured but interactive dialogue.

The trend of a well-functioning coordination segment continued and was further strengthened this year. The Council is gradually re-equipping itself to play the coordinating role envisaged for it in the Charter of the United Nations. This year's agreed conclusions showed the Council's willingness to assert its authority over its own subsidiary machinery in a constructive way. Harmonization and coordination of the work programmes of the Council's functional commissions in the area of poverty eradication are an important step towards achieving the same overall direction. Not only is the Council better placed to direct the work of its functional commissions, but the commissions themselves will also be able to draw on each other's work in a more coherent and synergistic way. Likewise, the Council's conclusions provide well-articulated guidance to the United Nations system for integrated support for poverty eradication at the country level and for mainstreaming the gender perspective into the work of the system.

In the segment on operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation, the Council undertook the monitoring and

guidance of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/120 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development. The report of the Secretary-General on the subject proved to be particularly helpful owing to its clearly defined focus on selected areas and the identification of problems and related recommendations. Furthermore, the dialogue with executive heads and two field teams of the United Nations system afforded the Council an opportunity to obtain further insights into the requirements for guidance. Consequently, the resolution adopted by the Council contains a range of substantive provisions that promote further reforms of operational activities in the key areas of harmonization of rules and procedures, common administrative services and common premises and strengthened monitoring and evaluation. Moreover, the groundwork has been laid for constructive consideration of some aspects of funding of operational activities by the Council in 1997.

In the general segment, the Council addressed a wide range of economic, social, humanitarian, human rights and coordination questions and adopted a number of substantial resolutions. The decision and the resolution that it adopted as part of the conclusion of its review of arrangements for consultations with non-governmental organizations must stand out, however, as the major achievement of this year's general segment. Concerning the agenda of the segment, it continues to be overburdened and fragmented and needs to be streamlined. This task has acquired new urgency since the Council will be required, as of 1997, to complete its programme of work within four weeks.

The coming year will be a critical one for the Council. It will need to maintain the momentum of reform initiated by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/227 by implementing the provisions relevant to its work with thoroughness and dispatch. I am confident that the members of next year's Council will be up to the task. For my part, I shall ensure that the 1996 Bureau safeguards and passes on to the 1997 substantive session of the Council the overall experience that we acquired in the initial phase of the implementation of Assembly resolution 50/227, as well as the lessons learned during the year.

Chapter I

MATTERS CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION

1. In 1996, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolutions and decisions that call for action by the General Assembly. The relevant paragraphs of those resolutions and decisions are summarized below.

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION: CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARDS OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME/UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND, THE UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND AND THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

Commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the operations of the United Nations Children's Fund

By decision 1996/226, the Council endorsed decision 1996/18 of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund, in which the Executive Board recommended to the General Assembly that it allocate a plenary meeting during its fifty-first session (1996) to the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the operations of the Fund, and recommended its approval by the Assembly at its fifty-first session. For the complete text of the decision, see chapter IV, section C.

SOCIAL, HUMANITARIAN AND HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Action against corruption

By resolution 1996/8, the Council recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft resolution contained therein. For the complete text of the resolution, see chapter V, section A.7.

United Nations Declaration on Crime and Public Security

By resolution 1996/9, the Council recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft resolution contained therein. For the complete text of the resolution, see chapter V, section A.7.

SOCIAL, HUMANITARIAN AND HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: NARCOTIC DRUGS

Special session of the General Assembly devoted to the combat against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities

By resolution 1996/17, the Council decided to recommend to the General Assembly to convene a special session, in order to consider the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities, and to propose new strategies, methods, practical activities and specific measures to strengthen international cooperation in addressing the problem of illicit drugs; also decided to propose that the special session of the Assembly should be held for three days in 1998; and requested the Secretary-General to present to the Assembly at its fifty-first session a report containing recommendations on the possible outcome of, and organizational matters relating to, the proposed

special session of the Assembly. For the complete text of the resolution, see chapter V, section A.8.

Strengthening of the role of the International Narcotics Control Board and development of a unified information system for the collection and analysis of data concerning the nature, patterns and trends of the global problem of drug abuse

By resolution 1996/20, the Council requested the General Assembly to allocate sufficient resources, within the regular budget, to enable the International Narcotics Control Board to carry out the functions assigned to it, in accordance with the international drug control conventions. For the complete text of the resolution, see chapter V, section A.8.

Action to strengthen international cooperation to control precursors and their substitutes used in the illicit manufacture of controlled substances, in particular amphetamine-type stimulants, and to prevent their diversion

By section II of resolution 1996/29, the Council, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to propose to the General Assembly, in order to implement the resolution, any modification in the programme of work of the Secretariat that might be necessary for the allocation of adequate resources to the United Nations International Drug Control Programme in the programme budget of the United Nations for the biennium 1996-1997. For the complete text of the resolution, see chapter V, section A.8.

Measures to combat diversion of psychotropic substances and to establish effective control over operations carried out by intermediaries in international trade of psychotropic substances

By resolution 1996/30, the Council requested the Secretary-General to propose to the General Assembly, in order to implement that resolution, any modification in the programme of work of the Secretariat that might be necessary for the allocation of adequate resources to the United Nations International Drug Control Programme in the programme budget of the United Nations for the biennium 1996-1997. For the complete text of the resolution, see chapter V, section A.8.

ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Institutional arrangements for the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities

By resolution 1996/1, the Council recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft resolution contained therein. For the complete text of the resolution, see chapter V, section B.1.

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Non-governmental organizations

By decision 1996/297, the Council decided to recommend that the General Assembly examine, at its fifty-first session, the question of the participation of non-governmental organizations in all areas of the work of the United Nations, in the light of the experience gained through the arrangements for

consultation between non-governmental organizations and the Council. For the complete text of the decision, see chapter V, section F.

2. The following resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council are also brought to the attention of the General Assembly.

SOCIAL, HUMANITARIAN AND HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

Situation of human rights in Burundi

By decision 1996/254, the Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1996/1, endorsed the Commission's request to the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Burundi to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session and to the Commission at its fifty-third session. For the complete text of the decision, see chapter V, section A.4.

Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

By decision 1996/255, the Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1996/8, requested the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures in order to transmit to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session the results of his consultations with Member States and intergovernmental as well as non-governmental organizations on the possibility of holding a world conference to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related contemporary forms of intolerance. For the complete text of the decision, see chapter V, section A.4.

Implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief

By decision 1996/260, the Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1996/23, approved the Commission's request to the Secretary-General to provide the Special Rapporteur on religious intolerance with all necessary assistance to enable him to carry out his mandate, to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session and to report to the Commission at its fifty-third session. For the complete text of the decision, see chapter V, section A.4.

Human rights of persons with disabilities

By decision 1996/261, the Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1996/27, approved the Commission's request to the Secretary-General to report biennially to the General Assembly on the progress of efforts to ensure the full recognition and enjoyment of the human rights of persons with disabilities. For the complete text of the decision, see chapter V, section A.4.

Assistance to States in strengthening the rule of law

By decision 1996/267, the Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1996/56, approved the Commission's request to the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session on the results of the contacts established in accordance with paragraph 9 of that resolution, as well as on any other developments pertaining to the implementation of the recommendation of the World Conference on Human

Rights referred to in the penultimate preambular paragraph of the same resolution. For the complete text of the decision, see chapter V, section A.4.

Composition of the staff of the Centre for Human Rights

By decision 1996/272, the Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1996/65, approved the Commission's request to the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session and to the Commission at its fifty-third session on the implementation of the Commission's resolution, including measures adopted and their results, and recommendations for improving the current situation. For the complete text of the decision, see chapter V, section A.4.

Human rights situation in southern Lebanon and West Bekaa

By decision 1996/274, the Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1996/68, approved the Commission's request to the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session and to the Commission at its fifty-third session on the results of his efforts in that regard. For the complete text of the decision, see chapter V, section A.4.

Situation of human rights in Cuba

By decision 1996/275, the Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1996/69, endorsed the Commission's decision to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cuba for one year, and approved the Commission's request to the Special Rapporteur to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session and to report to the Commission at its fifty-third session on the results of his endeavours pursuant to the Commission's resolution. For the complete text of the decision, see chapter V, section A.4.

Situation of human rights in Iraq

By decision 1996/277, the Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1996/72, endorsed the Commission's decision to extend for a further year the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iraq, and approved the Commission's requests to the Special Rapporteur to report periodically to the Commission on the situation of human rights in Iraq and to submit an interim report on the situation of human rights in Iraq to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session and a report to the Commission at its fifty-third session. For the complete text of the decision, see chapter V, section A.4.

Situation of human rights in the Sudan

By decision 1996/278, the Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1996/73, endorsed the Commission's decision to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Sudan for an additional year, and approved the Commission's request to the Special Rapporteur to report his findings and recommendations to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session and to the Commission at its fifty-third session. For the complete text of the decision, see chapter V, section A.4.

Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions

By decision 1996/279, the Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1996/74, approved the Commission's invitation to the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session on the situation worldwide in regard to summary or arbitrary executions and his recommendations for more effective action to combat that phenomenon. For the complete text of the decision, see chapter V, section A.4.

Situation of human rights in Afghanistan

By decision 1996/280, the Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1996/75, endorsed the Commission's decision to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan for one year, and approved the Commission's request to the Special Rapporteur to report on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan to the Commission at its fifty-third session and to consider submitting a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session. For the complete text of the decision, see chapter V, section A.4.

Situation of human rights in Rwanda

By decision 1996/281, the Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1996/76, endorsed the Commission's decision to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Rwanda for an additional year and approved the Commission's requests to the Special Rapporteur to make recommendations concerning situations in which technical assistance might be appropriate and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session and to the Commission at its fifty-third session. For the complete text of the decision, see chapter V, section A.4.

Situation of human rights in Nigeria

By decision 1996/284, the Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1996/79, approved the Commission's request to the two thematic Special Rapporteurs who had requested a joint investigative visit to Nigeria to submit to the Commission at its fifty-third session a joint report on their findings, along with any observations of other relevant mechanisms, in particular the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, and also approved the Commission's request to them to submit an interim report to the General Assembly. For the complete text of the decision, see chapter V, section A.4.

Situation of human rights in Myanmar

By decision 1996/285, the Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1996/80, approved the Commission's decision to extend for one year the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar to establish or continue direct contacts with the Government and people of Myanmar, including political leaders deprived of their liberty, their families and their lawyers, and its request to him to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session and to the Commission at its fifty-third session. For the complete text of the decision, see chapter V, section A.4.

Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran

By decision 1996/287, the Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1996/84, endorsed the Commission's decision to extend the mandate of the Special Representative on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran for a further year and approved the Commission's request to the Special Representative to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, including the situation of minority groups such as the Baha'is, and to report to the Commission at its fifty-third session. For the complete text of the decision, see chapter V, section A.4.

Rights of the child

By decision 1996/288, the Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1996/85, approved the Commission's request to the Secretary-General to provide the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography with all necessary human and financial assistance, from within existing resources, to make the full discharge of the mandate possible and to enable her to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session and a report to the Commission at its fifty-third session. For the complete text of the decision, see chapter V, section A.4.

Chapter II

HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGAINST THE ILLICIT PRODUCTION, SALE, DEMAND, TRAFFIC AND DISTRIBUTION OF NARCOTICS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

INTRODUCTION

1. The high-level segment was held from 24 to 27 June 1996 (8th to 15th meetings of the Council). An account of the proceedings is contained in the relevant summary records (E/1996/SR.8-15). The Council had before it the following documents:

(a) Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 1995 (E/1996/18 and Add.1);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotics and psychotropic substances and related activities (E/1996/57);

(c) World Economic and Social Survey, 1996 (E/1996/60).

ACTION TAKEN BY THE COUNCIL

2. At the 52nd meeting, on 26 July 1996, the President of the Council presented the summary and conclusions of the high-level segment (E/1996/89), which read as follows:

"Summary presented by Ambassador Jean-Marie Kacou Gervais, President of the Economic and Social Council

"INTRODUCTION

"The high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council was held from 24 to 27 June 1996. The theme of the segment was 'International cooperation against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotics and psychotropic substances and related activities'. The segment was attended by a large number of ministers and other high-level representatives.

"During the segment, on 24 June 1996, the Council held an intensive policy dialogue on major issues in the world economy with Mr. Rubens Ricupero, Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Mr. Prabhakar R. Narvekar, Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and Mr. Sven Sandstrom, Managing Director of the World Bank. The absence of a representative of the World Trade Organization was noted with regret.

"I. POLICY DIALOGUE

"The policy dialogue with the Secretary-General of UNCTAD and responsible representatives of the heads of the World Bank and IMF focused on trends in the world economy; the issue of globalization; trade; debt; resource flows; and cooperation and coordination within the United Nations system. Also addressed was the importance of international cooperation in combating the drug problem.

"A. The world economy and international cooperation

"The evolution of world economic growth is encouraging, although many countries continue to have an economic performance below their potential. Developing countries, as a group, are making a major contribution to the growth of the world economy. Their growth, which seems in many cases - particularly in Asia and to some extent in Latin America - to be independent of the growth or lack of it in developed economies, is expected to continue to outpace that of the industrialized countries in 1996-1997. Developing countries are contributing not only to world growth but also to macro-stabilization policies worldwide, in particular through greater internal price stability and significant deregulation of financial markets. Growth, however, remains uneven, with a small number of developing countries growing rapidly, a larger number showing improved performance, and a third group, in particular the least developed and African countries, lagging behind. Many developing countries continue to be faced with the problems of poverty, inadequate infrastructure, capital constraints and low levels of social development. Many of the countries with economies in transition are moving towards a high growth path. However, these countries will continue to need international assistance in the period ahead to overcome the problems of transition.

"Sound policies, structural changes and economic reforms must continue to be pursued by all countries, including developing countries, to sustain and accelerate growth and development. At the same time, the importance of the external economic environment, particularly the effects of economic and trade policies and developments in developed countries, and of international economic cooperation, was underscored. The suggestion was put forward that the main industrialized countries should coordinate policies of economic expansion to raise demand and combat unemployment, in the context of deepening trade liberalization. The prospective growth environment for developing countries will depend not only on their continuing significant policy adjustments but also on sustained and strong momentum in global trade liberalization leading to rapid growth in world trade. The acute problems of the least developed countries, whose number has increased, can be overcome only with decisive international action and assistance. Partnership between developed and developing countries should be reinforced and extended to civil society as a whole.

"Recent United Nations conferences have defined the framework for and resulted in commitments to intensify international cooperation for development. Attention must now focus on implementation at the national and international levels. Development strategy should be based on a country's plans, priorities and development needs, and should be country-specific, while recognizing that developing countries face many common constraints and problems. International cooperation is necessary to assist developing countries in carrying out their development goals.

"B. Globalization

"Globalization, in particular global financial integration, implies opportunities and challenges. As we continue to assess the risks and benefits associated with globalization, it is time to address the issue of the post-globalization agenda. Many developing countries and countries with economies in transition are liberalizing their trade and investment environment. As a result, private capital flows to developing countries have increased substantially, and have complemented domestic savings and external assistance. However, so far three quarters of these flows have gone to only 12 countries, and such flows can easily be suspended or reversed. Therefore, current efforts to establish a system of financial cooperation capable of providing early warning and preventing the emergence of serious financial crises must be continued and intensified. It was suggested that the international community should also give consideration, as appropriate and in cooperation with national Governments, to ways of dealing with the possible negative effects on developing countries of sudden outflows of private capital. The developed economies should better integrate the international dimension into their macroeconomic and monetary policies, since these have a crucial impact on world growth and development.

"Globalization discussions so far have mainly referred to trade in goods and services, and have tended to overlook technology, labour and migration flows. It was suggested that labour mobility should be a part of the liberalization agenda.

"C. Trade

"While all partners in the Uruguay round of multilateral trade negotiations have undertaken trade liberalization measures, many developing countries have adopted unilateral measures as well. Liberalization efforts must be further deepened in all countries, taking into account the relevant internationally agreed provisions to address the special situations of developing countries.

"Economic cooperation and integration at the regional level are also important. Intensified regional cooperation should not be pursued as an alternative to the global liberalization process but should contribute to an open and multilateral trading system.

"D. Debt and resource flows

"Finding lasting solutions to the heavy debt burdens of the least developed countries is crucial in the fight against poverty. Hope was expressed that a solution will be found as the World Bank and IMF continue their joint and ongoing efforts to bring the external debt problems of heavily indebted poor countries, including multilateral debt, to a sustainable level.

"The provision of new and additional resources, both multilateral and bilateral, is required for achieving the commitments agreed to at recent major international conferences and summits. The problem of declining official development assistance (ODA) has to be addressed urgently. Adequate financial resources are required to enable international financial

institutions to fulfil their mandate, and the recent disconcerting trends and developments in that area were noted.

"Following the agreement on the replenishment of the International Development Association (IDA), the implementation of related commitments must be ensured. Concern was expressed at the incomplete tenth replenishment of IDA and the prospects for the eleventh replenishment. The IMF Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility has been established on a permanent basis; ways of financing it should be agreed upon as soon as possible. A substantial increase in quotas is being considered in the IMF Eleventh General Review of Quotas. Agreement on the broad outline of a new arrangement to double resources available under the General Arrangements to Borrow should be finalized and implemented.

"E. Structural adjustment

"Discussions have shown growing international consensus on the main elements of sound economic policies. The proper design and effective implementation of structural adjustment programmes, which fully take into account the social dimension, remain a key challenge. While recent improvement in growth in Africa suggests that well-designed structural adjustment programmes could restore growth, experience has vividly demonstrated that adjustment programmes must take into account the need to expand social investment, provide a social safety net and alleviate poverty. Policies to protect social sectors should assure that the poor have a stronger say in designing plans and setting priorities. Building Governments' capacities should be a priority as well as an appropriate role for civil society. Efforts should be intensified to implement commitment 8 of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development 1/ regarding structural adjustment programmes.

"F. Cooperation and coordination within the United Nations system

"Progress has been made in the cooperation between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions in a number of economic, social and environmental areas. The United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on Africa and the inter-agency task forces of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) on the follow-up to major conferences, among others, provide useful avenues for enhanced cooperation between the Bretton Woods institutions and the rest of the United Nations system. A call was made for developing further the cooperation between the United Nations system and the Bretton Woods institutions, and for both a closer policy dialogue at the intergovernmental level on global macroeconomic policy issues and promoting cooperation at the country level. A number of speakers emphasized that strengthening the collaboration between the United Nations system and the Bretton Woods institutions should avoid, within the context of the United Nations operational system, new conditionalities and restrictive policies. The ongoing reform of the multilateral financial institutions was noted. The reform of UNCTAD, in particular the streamlining and simplification of its intergovernmental machinery and

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1/ See Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), forthcoming, chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

secretariat structure, and the clear, refocused and reinforced mandate given to it at its ninth session, were also welcomed. The need to explore ways to broaden and enhance coordination of monetary and financial institutions was emphasized.

"Many speakers noted that the high-level policy dialogue of the Council with heads of multilateral trade and financial institutions has proved to be very useful in facilitating discussion of international economic issues, including those arising from the process of globalization and liberalization. Some participants suggested that the dialogue might gain from being more focused on selected themes. Attention was drawn to the need to ensure that participation in the one-day policy dialogue should continue to be at the executive head level, as in previous years. The President of the Council was encouraged to pursue this question with the parties concerned.

"G. Drug abuse control

"The need to integrate drug abuse control in the national and global policy agenda was emphasized. A comprehensive and multidimensional approach to the problem is needed, with the effective involvement of all partners, including the international financial institutions.

"II. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGAINST THE ILLICIT PRODUCTION, SALE, DEMAND, TRAFFIC AND DISTRIBUTION OF NARCOTICS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

"The report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotics and psychotropic substances and related activities (E/1996/57) provided the basic background documentation for the high-level segment debate. The report provided a concise and comprehensive overview of the extent of drug trafficking and abuse worldwide, which was closely linked with the problems of organized crime and money laundering. It emphasized the social and economic cost and consequences of drug abuse on society.

"The challenge posed to societies by drug abuse and illicit trafficking has many facets and dimensions: it transcends national and geographical boundaries, affects different social and age groups, and stands at the crossroads of many social and economic issues. Drug abuse has devastating social effects, including its harmful impact on youth, families, other social groups and the workplace, and adverse health consequences as well, including those resulting from the relationship between substance abuse and a number of major diseases and disorders and the spread of human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS).

"From their activities and the laundering of their illicit proceeds, drug trafficking organizations derive sufficient economic power to undermine democratic institutions through corruption, and to distort economies through both the effects of the very large sums involved on financial systems and the takeover of legitimate businesses by drug traffickers. There is a strong link among drug trafficking, money laundering, terrorism in all its forms, organized crime and traffic in

arms, all of which are major threats to national and international security.

"The drug menace affects developed and developing countries alike. The current trends and patterns of drug abuse and traffic have made difficult the categorization of countries as producer countries, transit States and consumer countries.

"The scale of the problem calls for reaffirmation of the political will and the national commitment to concrete action, enhanced international cooperation founded on collective and shared responsibility, and international solidarity in the implementation of counter-strategies. Initiatives to counter the drug problem should be undertaken with full respect for national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

"A comprehensive, multidisciplinary and balanced approach to addressing the growing complexity of the drug phenomenon at the national, regional and international levels is an essential requirement. National drug strategies based on a balanced approach, whereby demand reduction and supply reduction are inseparable, mutually reinforcing elements of those strategies, are being increasingly adopted by Governments. Prevention, treatment, and social rehabilitation measures must be an integral part of drug control strategies, as a complement to law enforcement measures targeting illicit traffic.

"One of the prerequisites of closer cooperation in drug control is the universal ratification of the international drug control treaties: the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988. The current drug control treaties and the Global Programme of Action adopted by the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session provide the necessary framework for international cooperation. While these instruments can be fine-tuned, what is of paramount importance is the political will and the sustained commitment of Governments to ensure their effective implementation. The adoption of strong domestic legislation and policies is an essential prerequisite of making full use of the opportunities for international cooperation provided by the international drug control treaties, particularly the 1988 Convention. During the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council, Governments renewed their commitment to taking firm action along the lines of policies currently in place.

"Legalization of the non-medical use of drugs was strongly opposed. Initiatives that diverge from the drug control policies of the international community undermine efforts to implement the drug control treaties. It was recalled that throughout the world the overwhelming majority of young people have chosen not to use illicit drugs and that the population at large has repudiated illicit drugs.

"To make further progress in the implementation of the drug control instruments, it is important to take stock of measures taken by Governments, to gauge difficulties encountered in their implementation and to identify the areas where assistance is required. This could be achieved through periodic reporting to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on measures taken to further their implementation.

"It was considered important that Governments establish the necessary framework to ensure the coordination and coherence of action at the national level and establish comprehensive national drug control master plans promoted by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) as a mechanism to ensure coordination in the implementation of drug control policies at the national level.

"Several representatives informed the Council of measures taken by their Governments to fulfil their treaty obligations and counter the drug threat. In that regard, new legislation had been adopted and penal codes amended to comply with the provisions of the international drug control treaties and facilitate the investigation and prosecuting of drug trafficking offences. Regional and bilateral agreements and arrangements had been concluded to facilitate cooperation and strengthen the capacity of Governments to combat drug trafficking syndicates and counter cross-border traffic, money laundering and the diversion of precursors. Several speakers outlined extensive demand reduction programmes to target domestic drug abuse problems and reported on successes that had been achieved in reducing demand. The attention of the Council was drawn to a number of trends in drug abuse and trafficking, and several representatives stressed the problem of growing abuse of synthetic drugs with stimulant properties.

"Drug trafficking organizations are violent, brutal and ruthless with regard to those responsible for ensuring the enforcement of law and order. Law enforcement officers should be provided with adequate specialized training to counter their operations.

"Efforts to counter money laundering constitute an integral part of international drug control. They are essential in order to target the economic power of drug traffickers and prevent the distorting effects on financial markets. International action against money laundering should be enhanced through the full and effective implementation of the provisions on money laundering of the 1988 Convention, in particular article 5, and of the bilateral, regional and multilateral agreements or arrangements on money laundering. A strong commitment by all Governments is required. Some speakers suggested that consideration be given to the preparation of an international instrument on money laundering, while others emphasized the importance of implementing existing instruments. It was suggested that a joint unit on money laundering could be established between UNDCP and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division of the Secretariat.

"It was essential for Governments to increase their efforts to reduce the production and supply of illicit drugs. In this regard, it was emphasized that Governments should increase their efforts to prevent the diversion of precursors and essential chemicals frequently used in the illicit manufacture of illicit drugs, and strengthen international cooperation in this area, pursuant to article 12 of the 1988 Convention.

"Alternative development programmes represent an essential component of international drug programmes. UNDCP should play a catalytic role and consider providing seed money to initiate alternative development programmes. Bilateral assistance agencies, programmes and funds of the United Nations system involved in providing technical assistance, as well as international financial institutions, should play a more active role in supporting alternative development programmes that accompany the elimination of drug crops. Given the large expenditure required for alternative development, it is essential that there be complementarity and

cooperation between the various agencies concerned. Drug control activities should be included as an integral part of development strategies. The commitment of the Government and the participation of the affected rural population in the decision-making process are also essential.

"The need for a stronger effort to reduce demand for illicit drugs was stressed. Civil society, including non-governmental organizations, should be mobilized to play a more active role in demand reduction, particularly in the field of primary prevention. One of the important objectives was to increase awareness, particularly of children, youth and other vulnerable groups, to the risks of drug abuse. Education among young people is crucial to demand reduction.

"To give greater priority to demand reduction, a declaration on the guiding principles of illicit demand reduction was considered by several delegations to be important. UNDCP was invited to continue to develop, as a matter of priority, the declaration on the guiding principles of reduction of illicit demand for drugs. The declaration should serve to establish agreed principles, guidelines and common denominators acceptable to the international community.

"The specialized agencies of the United Nations system, particularly the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Health Organization, had critical roles to play in reducing the illicit demand for drugs. Particular reference was made to the importance of prevention through education programmes to protect youth and street children. Demand reduction programmes should address the ethical and cultural dimensions of the problem in national educational policies and programmes.

"Many developing countries lacked the resources to implement fully the provisions of the international drug control treaties and apply law enforcement and control measures commensurate with the scale of the drug problem. Drug abuse and trafficking constituted an additional burden which undermined their sustainable social and economic development. UNDCP was invited to assist African States in the implementation of the Plan of Action on Drug Control Abuse and Illicit Drug Trafficking in Africa, to be adopted by the Organization of African Unity in July 1996. The ongoing efforts of UNDCP to include drug control elements in national development strategies as well as in international economic and social cooperation programmes were encouraged. In that connection, it was stated that the international community should provide financial and technical assistance to developing countries.

"Countries with economies in transition that have been adversely affected by the illicit traffic and drug abuse that provided organized criminal groups with the means to undermine the democratic process and hamper the emergence of a viable market economy also need to be assisted in their efforts to combat the drug menace.

"Strong support was expressed for the regional and subregional approach of UNDCP which has been highly effective as a means to enhance cooperation and coordination of activities in drug control at the regional level, particularly in countering cross-border traffic. UNDCP was invited

to continue, as a priority, to support initiatives for closer regional and subregional cooperation.

"As a centre of expertise, UNDCP should improve its capacity to collect and analyse data on the various aspects of the drug problem with a view to facilitating the provision of policy advice and assistance to Member States based on an assessment of the various aspects of the drug issue. The development of the information management and analysis capacity of UNDCP was crucial to its leadership and coordination role within and outside the United Nations. At the national level, Governments should improve their capacity to collect, analyse and disseminate data regarding the domestic drug problem. National authorities should cooperate with UNDCP and the International Narcotics Control Board by responding to their requests for such information. Some representatives referred to the country reports as the basis for reviewing the drug situation in the respective countries and stated that the evaluation of the drug situation and of measures to combat drugs should be limited to the United Nations bodies entrusted with evaluation responsibilities.

"The United Nations system has a critical role to play in addressing the global threat of drug abuse and illicit traffic, particularly in the adoption and implementation of agreed standards and norms. The drug issue should be a priority concern of all relevant United Nations agencies, programmes and funds, as well as of the international financial institutions.

"The recent actions taken by the Administrative Committee on Coordination to ensure the increased commitment by specialized agencies, programmes and funds, as well as the international financial institutions, to include the drug dimension in their programmes of work were welcomed.

"The United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control provides a vital tool for the coordination and enhancement of drug control activities within the system. An increasing number of agencies in the United Nations system are now addressing the drug issue within their respective fields of competence. Inter-agency coordination represents an important contribution to the fight against illicit drugs at the international level. The coordinating functions of UNDCP at the policy and operational levels should be strengthened to ensure that the United Nations system can develop a concerted response to the drug problem. Also essential is continued cooperation with the International Criminal Police Organization-Interpol, the Financial Action Task Force and other bodies outside the United Nations system with important functions in the fight against various aspects of the drug menace, as well as continued cooperation among those bodies.

"The limited and reduced resources available to UNDCP from the United Nations regular budget were considered insufficient to meet the demands made on the Programme. Dependence on a limited number of countries for voluntary contributions and a reduction in general purpose contributions have placed UNDCP in a vulnerable position. UNDCP should be provided with adequate resources to fulfil its mandates and become a centre of excellence focusing on policies and their implementation. In the short term, it is essential for more States to assume responsibility for the financial situation of UNDCP. By providing it with resources commensurate with its mandate and exercising responsibility for its governance, they could demonstrate their commitment to UNDCP.

"Strong support was expressed for the proposal emanating from the Commission on Narcotic Drugs concerning the convening of a special session of the General Assembly in 1998. Such a session should serve to reaffirm the commitment to national and international drug control as a high priority and enable agreement to be reached on measures to strengthen international drug control on the basis of shared responsibility. A number of Governments stated that it would also provide an occasion to consider measures to improve the functioning of the intergovernmental and technical bodies involved in international drug control. Some speakers suggested that the Assembly could, on that occasion, give special attention to issues such as precursor control, abuse of and traffic in stimulants and their precursors, and the struggle against money laundering. The active participation of all States and agencies in the preparation of the special session was considered essential to creating the political momentum and support that such a session required. The high-level segment had contributed to its preparation and the Council could make a further contribution to the preparatory process.

"Conclusions

"Some of the main conclusions emanating from the high-level segment are outlined below:

"- Confirmation of the high priority assigned by States to international drug control; determination to undertake concerted action at the multilateral level and ensure universal adherence to the international drug control treaties.

"- Reaffirmation of the commitment for drug control to remain one of the top priorities of the United Nations medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001.

"- Consideration of appropriate measures to improve the functioning of the intergovernmental and technical bodies involved in international drug control.

"- Reconfirmation of the leadership and coordination role of UNDCP, especially within the United Nations system; and provision to UNDCP of the resources required to fulfil its leadership and coordination function, as called for by the General Assembly.

"- Addressing drug control cooperation issues in the governing bodies of the agencies, programmes and funds of the United Nations system and the international financial institutions.

"- Improvement and enhancement of the intergovernmental system for evaluating the implementation of the drug control instruments, with the support of Member States.

"- Mobilization and forging of strong partnerships with all actors of civil society, particularly non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, sports associations and the private sector.

"- Practical implementation of the drug control instruments through the adoption of appropriate laws and the establishment of

institutions for their enforcement at the national level, according to national policies and priorities.

"- Adoption of national drug control master plans, based on a balanced approach giving equal importance to measures to reduce the demand for and measures to reduce the supply of illicit drugs.

"- Adoption of appropriate mechanisms for coordination at the national level endowed with the necessary legal and political authority.

"- Encouragement of bilateral cooperation and multilateral agreements to combat drug trafficking and abuse.

"- Allocation at the national level of resources commensurate with the recognized dimension and gravity of the drug problem; and recognition of the need for international cooperation and assistance in this regard."

Chapter III

COORDINATION SEGMENT

COORDINATION OF THE POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER BODIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

A. Coordination of the United Nations system activities for poverty eradication

INTRODUCTION

1. At its substantive session, the Council considered the question of coordination of the United Nations system activities for poverty eradication (agenda item 3 (a)) at its 18th to 23rd and 51st meetings from 1 to 3 and on 26 July 1996. An account of the discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (E/1996/SR.18-23 and 51). The Council had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the twenty-ninth series of Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination, held on 16 October 1995 (E/1996/4 and Corr.1);

(b) Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 1995 (E/1996/18 and Add.1);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system related to the following theme: coordination of United Nations system activities for poverty eradication (E/1996/61).

ACTION TAKEN BY THE COUNCIL

2. At the 51st meeting, on 26 July 1996, the Vice-President of the Council, Mr. Gerhard Henze (Germany), introduced the draft agreed conclusions E/1996/L.30 on coordination of the United Nations system activities for poverty eradication, and orally revised the text. The Council then adopted the draft agreed conclusions. The text read as follows:

Agreed conclusions 1996/1

"1. The Economic and Social Council takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the coordination of United Nations system activities for poverty eradication (E/1996/61) and of the recommendations it contains to assist in the formulation of coordinated United Nations support for national poverty eradication activities.

"2. The international community reached a consensus and committed itself to the goal of poverty eradication at the major United Nations conferences and summits of the 1990s, as an ethical, social, political and economic imperative. The World Summit for Social Development adopted a global and comprehensive approach, outlined a broad range of measures aimed at eradicating poverty and called upon Governments to formulate integrated

poverty eradication strategies, including time-bound goals and targets in their national context. While the United Nations system has an essential and complementary role to play in supporting Governments in their efforts to eradicate poverty, the primary responsibility for the assessment of poverty situations and for the formulation, strengthening and implementation of national poverty eradication plans and programmes lies with Governments and requires a strong political commitment at the national level. The implementation of the global commitments by the international community is also required since not only is poverty a national problem but it also has origins in the international environment.

"3. The problem of poverty exists in all countries, but with varying degrees of intensity.

"4. Poverty has various causes, including structural ones. Poverty is a complex, multidimensional problem with origins in both the national and international domains. No uniform solution can be found for global application. Rather, country-specific programmes to tackle poverty and international efforts supporting national efforts, as well as the parallel process of creating a supportive international environment, are crucial for a solution to this problem. Poverty is inseparably linked to a lack of control over resources, including land, skills, knowledge, capital and social connections. Without those resources, people are easily neglected by policy makers and have limited access to institutions, markets, employment, and public services. The eradication of poverty cannot be accomplished through anti-poverty programmes alone but will require democratic participation, and changes in economic structures in order to ensure access for all to resources, opportunities and public services, to undertake policies geared to more equitable distribution of wealth and income, to implement social protection for those who cannot support themselves, and to assist people confronted with unforeseen catastrophe, whether individual or collective, natural, social or technological.

"5. The Economic and Social Council recognizes that the goal of poverty eradication represents a major challenge for the United Nations system, owing to its importance as a global objective. The United Nations system has an important role to play in the overall effort for poverty eradication and in assisting Member States in translating the global goals and commitments of the international conferences and the statutory mandates of each organization into concrete actions and activities at all levels. Given the variety of the mandates and activities of organizations of the United Nations system in the area of poverty eradication, harmonization and coordination among those that intervene in the struggle to eradicate poverty are crucial. The participation of the United Nations system, including United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies, in the overall efforts of poverty eradication is aimed at assisting Member States in translating the global goals and commitments of the international conferences into concrete actions, especially at the country level.

"I. COORDINATED UNITED NATIONS SUPPORT AND AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES FOR POVERTY ERADICATION ACTIVITIES AT THE FIELD LEVEL

"A. Definition of a poverty eradication strategy

"6. There is no single best strategy for poverty eradication, and strategies differ from one country to another. It is the primary responsibility of the Government of each country to conduct an assessment of its own poverty situation and define its own poverty eradication strategy. The participation of civil society, including people living in poverty, the empowerment of local communities, and a genuine feeling of ownership by the Government and local communities are essential for poverty eradication strategies. The United Nations system has an essential and complementary role to play in supporting the Government in this area, providing assistance to the Government where requested and orienting its support activities according to the priorities and development objectives pursued by the Government through collaborative exercises, such as the country strategy note (CSN), when the Government intends to apply this mechanism, or other existing coordination mechanisms where the CSN is not applied.

"B. Resources for poverty eradication

"7. There has been a decline in concessional resources for multilateral development institutions, which makes it more difficult for them to respond to the massive challenge of assisting countries in poverty eradication. In this context, particular concern was expressed at the incomplete fulfilment of commitments to the tenth replenishment of the International Development Association (IDA) and it was hoped that adequate resources would be available for the eleventh replenishment. While it is the primary responsibility of the Government to mobilize resources for poverty eradication at the national level, the need for a substantial increase in resources for operational activities for development on a predictable, continuous and assured basis, commensurate with the increasing needs of developing countries, is recognized - as is the need to enhance the effectiveness, efficiency and impact of the activities of the United Nations system in the area of poverty eradication. The quality and effectiveness of the use of resources are as important as the quantity of resources for poverty eradication. Ways of securing predictable, continuous and assured funding should be explored, in particular in the context of the agreement reached by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/227.

"8. There is an urgent need to strive for the fulfilment of the agreed target of 0.7 per cent of the gross national product (GNP) of the developed countries for official development assistance (ODA) as soon as possible. Mobilization of substantial new and additional resources from all sources, domestic and international, public and private, and from traditional and new sources would also be instrumental. New ways of generating new public and private financial resources, inter alia, through the appropriate reduction of excessive military expenditures, including global military expenditures and the arms trade, and investments for arms production and acquisition, taking into consideration national security requirements, so as to allow possible allocation of additional funds for social and economic development, including poverty eradication, should be explored. In the

budgetary process, transparency and accountability should be ensured in the use of public resources, and priority should be given to providing and improving basic social services. The Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development 1/ called upon interested developed and developing country partners to agree on a mutual commitment to allocate, on average, 20 per cent of ODA and 20 per cent of the national budget, respectively, to basic social programmes. The Council takes note of the work that interested countries have undertaken in developing and operationalizing the 20/20 concept, most recently at meetings that led to the adoption of the Oslo Consensus on 20/20 (A/51/140, annex).

"C. Commitment to coordination of poverty eradication activities

"9. In order to fulfil its supporting role, the United Nations system must actively pursue a coordinated and integrated approach - both at Headquarters and in the field, and between Headquarters and the field - to the implementation of the outcome of the recent conferences, which have all given priority to the goal of poverty eradication. In accordance with the mandates of the organizations of the United Nations system and the policies defined by the executive boards, the executive heads of all the organizations of the United Nations system should ensure that their country-level representatives are fully committed to poverty eradication activities, to promoting joint action by the United Nations system and to participating in the resident coordinator system, including appropriate field-level committees and task forces, taking into account the complementarities and strengths of each organization.

"D. Common country assessment

"10. The organizations of the United Nations system should assist the Government upon request, through collective efforts made within the resident coordinator system, in preparing, under the leadership of the Government, an assessment of the poverty situation in the country as the basis for a country-specific poverty eradication strategy, taking account of the work carried out by the country itself in social development assessment according to the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development. All the specialized agencies and related organizations of the United Nations system are invited to strengthen and adjust their activities, programmes and medium-term strategies, as appropriate, to take into account the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development. The common country assessment suggested by the Joint Consultative Group on Policy should be extended to the United Nations system, and integrated into the process for the formulation of the CSN, where appropriate and in agreement with the Government. All joint efforts in information collection, research and analysis should take into account the statistical work on poverty measurement and other poverty indicators that has been carried out at the national level by countries themselves.

"11. A common system-wide approach to support for monitoring by national Governments and assessing the achievement of goals and targets agreed to in

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1/ Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8) forthcoming, chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

international forums in the area of poverty should be developed under the auspices of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC), bearing in mind the need to avoid duplication of effort. Reporting from the United Nations system that would elaborate on issues that need to be addressed in relation to the implementation of paragraph 29 of the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, which deals with monitoring and assessment by Governments, would be useful.

"E. Increase of national capacity to develop indicators and assess data

"12. The United Nations system should provide technical cooperation and other forms of assistance to the developing countries, in particular in Africa and the least developed countries, in implementing the recommendations of the recent major conferences and summits, as appropriate, in particular the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development 2/ and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development. The United Nations system should also consider and provide appropriate technical cooperation and other forms of assistance to the countries with economies in transition. Upon the request of the Government, the United Nations system should provide assistance in further developing and sustaining national capacity to gather and analyse information and to develop indicators for poverty analysis. The capacity of the United Nations system in this area should be fully utilized in formulating guidelines to develop definitions, indicators and instruments for impact assessment and for monitoring poverty programmes, including gender-sensitive indicators, in accordance with the outcomes of major recent conferences and summits with a view to assisting countries in those areas. ACC is requested to ensure coordination in this area and active steps should be taken to avoid duplication.

"F. Gender analysis

"13. The United Nations system should integrate the gender perspective into the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes on poverty eradication and pay particular attention to the collection of gender-disaggregated data.

"G. Country strategy note (CSN)

"14 The overall coordination of the poverty eradication activities of the United Nations system at the country level should take into account the CSN when Governments intend to apply this mechanism, which remains a voluntary initiative of recipient countries that should be formulated by interested recipient countries in accordance with their development plans and priorities, with the assistance of and in cooperation with the United Nations system.

"15. In countries where the CSN is either not yet available or not pursued, the United Nations system should, with the consent of the national Government, work through existing coordination mechanisms in support of national poverty eradication plans and programmes.

2/ Ibid., annex I.

"16. Poverty eradication activities are a high priority of the United Nations system and should be supported and coordinated through the resident coordinator system. Country coordination of the poverty eradication activities of the organizations of the United Nations system requires that those organizations actively participate in the resident coordinator system. The resident coordinator system should play its role in full collaboration and consultation with the Government, taking into account that the ultimate responsibility of coordination in the country is that of the Government. The Government has also the primary responsibility in priority-setting.

"17. In accordance with national plans and priorities, United Nations agencies, funds, programmes and bodies represented at the field level should, through the resident coordinator system and under the leadership and facilitation of the resident coordinator, actively work towards expanding and improving coordination and promote United Nations joint activities related, as appropriate, to the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of poverty eradication activities. In order to promote coordination and a better division of labour, special efforts must be made to ensure that resident coordinators, at the earliest possible stage of formulation, are informed of planned poverty programme activities and other relevant activities of the United Nations agencies, funds, programmes and bodies.

"H. Field-level committee

"18. The field-level committee should review all major programmes and projects of the United Nations system, sectoral strategies and evaluation exercises in the area of poverty eradication in order to ensure their complementarity, provide guidance and advice on proposals for new initiatives, and facilitate the identification of programmes and projects for possible complementary financing and coordinated implementation, on the understanding that the results of the review carried out by the committee should be submitted to national Governments for final approval through the national focal points. The field-level committee should also promote the dialogue between the United Nations system and the Government, including other relevant stakeholders, for effective coordination of poverty eradication initiatives at the country level.

"I. Thematic groups

"19. The organizations of the United Nations system should promote the establishment of ad hoc thematic groups, with the joint participation of United Nations system officials and government authorities, in order to launch initiatives and debate on poverty eradication, and to promote appropriate measures to ensure that goals are actively pursued. Under the overall leadership of the Government, greater use could be made of thematic groups and other informal forums at the field level to enhance the dialogue between Governments and all relevant development partners, including bilateral and multilateral donors and civil society, including non-governmental organizations.

"J. Programme approach

"20. In order to achieve effective integration with national poverty eradication programmes defined along cross-sectoral lines, extended use should be made of the programme approach modality, under the leadership of the recipient Government. The programme approach should also be followed at the sectoral level, particularly in those sectors that have the greatest impact on people living in poverty, who should be empowered by Governments to participate in the design and implementation of programmes.

"K. Cooperation with the Bretton Woods institutions

"21. High priority should be devoted to strengthening the collaboration between the United Nations system and the Bretton Woods institutions in the areas of social and economic development at all levels, taking into account that such strengthening should preserve the fundamental characteristics of the operational activities of the United Nations system on poverty eradication activities in line with General Assembly resolution 50/120, including their universal, voluntary and grant nature, their neutrality and their multilateralism. If the Government concerned so desires, consideration should be given to achieving greater complementarity between the policy framework papers and country assistance strategies on the one hand, and the CSN, where it exists, on the other, so that coordination for the implementation of poverty eradication strategies could be enhanced.

"22. A clear agreement should be reached with all relevant institutions to suitably use round-table meetings and consultative group meetings for the coordination of poverty eradication activities, to the extent possible, in a consistent development strategy. Cooperation between the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank in the preparation, discussion and follow-up to round-table meetings and consultative groups should be strengthened, as appropriate.

"L. Inter-agency coordination efforts

"23. In the overall context of poverty eradication, the Council takes note of the work of ACC in promoting the implementation of outcomes of major global conferences in an integrated and thematic manner. It supports the approach to coordinated effort adopted in the creation of the ad hoc inter-agency task forces on the follow-up to conferences, which should take into account the mandates emanating from intergovernmental processes. The results of the work of the ad hoc task forces as well as the inter-agency committees, including the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development and the Inter-Agency Committee on Women, should be reported through ACC to the Council in the context of the consideration of poverty eradication and other future theme(s) in the coordination segment and to its functional commissions within their respective mandates. These inter-agency efforts should also promote coherent support by the United Nations system on economic and social policy at the national level and produce clear guidelines for implementation by the resident coordinator system and other interested parties for the operationalization of programmes and platforms for action. Such inter-agency coordination efforts should maintain the fundamental characteristics of the operational activities of the United Nations system as spelt out in paragraph 21 above.

"24. Close and organic linkages should be drawn between inter-agency task forces and the rest of the ACC machinery as well as between relevant Secretariat departments responsible for policy design and the funds and programmes. Duplication should be avoided in the work of the task forces, particularly on the development of indicators, by ensuring a coherent approach under the auspices of ACC. Other ongoing work should also be taken into account, particularly the work being done in developing countries. All task forces should apply a gender perspective to their own work.

"25. The Task Force on an Enabling Environment for Social and Economic Development with the World Bank as its lead agency should focus on all aspects of the relevant chapter of the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, including the national and international environments, as well as the results of other related recent United Nations conferences. It should reflect the contributions of all relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system: United Nations, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Population Fund, United Nations International Drug Control Programme, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, International Labour Organization, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, International Civil Aviation Organization, World Health Organization, International Monetary Fund, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, International Atomic Energy Agency and United Nations Development Fund for Women. The work of the Task Force on Employment and Sustainable Livelihoods, with the International Labour Organization as its lead agency, should contribute to poverty eradication, inter alia, by promoting more coordinated and effective programmes to generate productive employment. The Economic and Social Council would welcome broader dissemination of the report of ACC, which should be discussed and considered by the Council.

"26. The United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on Africa is complementary to the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s 3/ and is also designed to facilitate its implementation and the implementation of the outcomes of major United Nations conferences as they relate to Africa. The Special Initiative might also become an impetus for the implementation of all elements of the New Agenda, including the mobilization of adequate resources, and should be considered in the context of the mid-term review of the implementation of the New Agenda.

"II. MAINSTREAMING THE GENDER PERSPECTIVE IN UNITED NATIONS ACTIVITIES FOR POVERTY ERADICATION

"27. In recent years, the number of women living in poverty has increased disproportionately to the number of men, particularly in the developing countries. Women, moreover, are affected by poverty in a number of distinctive ways, and face particular obstacles, including discrimination, in seeking to overcome it. Failure to fully integrate a gender perspective in the design and implementation of poverty eradication programmes will prevent those programmes from achieving their goals.

3/ General Assembly resolution 46/151, annex, sect. II.

"28. Practical steps should be undertaken to integrate the gender perspective, first, into the coordinated follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits and, second, in all activities and documentation on poverty eradication, especially in connection with the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty and the forthcoming first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty. This should include, in accordance with the final outcomes of recent major conferences and summits:

"(a) A conscious and cohesive effort by the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, to promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective in the formulation and implementation of both macroeconomic and micro-economic policies, and of all programmes aimed at poverty eradication;

"(b) Regular exchange of information and experience, and collaboration, among United Nations organizations concerned with poverty eradication, as well as between these organizations and those concerned more specifically with women;

"(c) Use of data disaggregated by sex in research, analysis and monitoring;

"(d) Review of existing statistical indicators from a gender perspective and an elaboration of consistent and standardized indicators capable of measuring the extent to which the gender dimension is present in activities, taking into account the work carried out by different countries, in particular by developing countries, in statistical work on poverty measurement and other poverty indicators;

"(e) Gender impact analysis of the design and implementation of policies and programmes;

"(f) Integration of a gender perspective into the monitoring and evaluation of results, especially with respect to operational activities;

"(g) Dissemination of information on the mainstreaming of a gender perspective on a regular basis and in a standardized form;

"(h) To this end, placing of greater emphasis on the need to provide appropriate training on gender issues to United Nations personnel, including personnel at the field level.

"29. Efforts should be made to increase the participation of women in activities relating to the design, planning, implementation and monitoring of United Nations policies and programmes on poverty eradication. More specifically, the gender perspective should be fully integrated, and the participation of women should be ensured, in the United Nations activities related to the eradication of poverty in the context of the coordinated follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits and in all activities relevant to poverty eradication, including the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty and the forthcoming first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty. It is also necessary to incorporate a coherent method of including both the mainstreaming of the gender perspective and specific programmes to achieve equality between men and women in the operational activities aimed at poverty eradication, and related staffing and decision-making spheres of the system.

"30. Close collaboration should be established between focal points in all units of the Secretariat related to poverty and women/gender units in order to reduce duplication and overlap in the mainstreaming of a gender perspective as well as to develop a coherent approach consistent with their mandates. Greater coherence is needed in the joint efforts for information collecting, research, analysis and operational activities.

"31. The Council should ensure that its future monitoring of United Nations system activities in poverty eradication reflects a gender perspective. The system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, 1996-2001, together with the comments of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Committee for Programme and Coordination and other relevant bodies, should be linked to these efforts of mainstreaming a gender perspective into policies and programmes in the area of poverty eradication and should serve as a general framework for the coordination of system-wide efforts for the advancement of women, including those aimed at eradicating poverty among women.

"32. The Council welcomes the creation of the recent ACC Inter-Agency Committee on Women, which will address the cross-cutting nature of gender issues. Effective mechanisms should be put in place by the organizations of the United Nations system to enable the Inter-Agency Committee to fulfil its task of advising ACC on how to ensure effective coordination and cooperation of the United Nations system in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action 4/ as well as in the mainstreaming of a gender perspective. The Council should be informed regularly about the work of the Committee.

"33. The United Nations resident coordinators, the field-level committees and the thematic working groups, where they exist, must be fully sensitized, including through appropriate training on gender issues, to the need to integrate a gender perspective into the design and implementation of activities aimed at assisting national efforts to combat poverty.

"III. A HARMONIZED AND INTEGRATED APPROACH TO INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONSIDERATION OF POVERTY ERADICATION

"34. In view of its complex and multidimensional nature, the goal of poverty eradication requires consideration in many forums within the United Nations system. It must be ensured that intergovernmental consideration is harmonized in order to achieve coherent outcomes, and that it covers the different dimensions and aspects of poverty in a complementary way. A more structured and action-oriented intergovernmental dialogue on poverty eradication within the Council and its subsidiary machinery, taking into account other forums, in particular policy-making organs of specialized agencies, should contribute to ensuring a more coherent set of policy guidelines for the United Nations system and more focused support by the Council to the General Assembly.

"35. Within the context of the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, the specific roles of the General Assembly, the Council and functional commissions in the context of poverty eradication must be

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4/ Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (A/CONF.177/20 and Add.1), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

clearly identified to avoid duplication of discussions. The Assembly should establish the broad policy framework. The Council should provide overall guidance and coordination to the United Nations system, focus attention on major policy issues that require a prioritized and coordinated response from the United Nations system as a whole, integrate the work of its functional commissions and support the Assembly in its policy guidance role. Functional commissions have been assigned, inter alia, specific responsibilities for follow-up to and review of the implementation of commitments made at recent major United Nations conferences within their own fields of competence.

"A. Strengthening the role of the Economic and Social Council in providing an integrated approach to poverty eradication

"36. The Economic and Social Council is the central intergovernmental mechanism for coordinating integrated and comprehensive activities of the United Nations system in the field of poverty eradication. It will focus on the provision of comprehensive guidelines and coordination of the work of other organs to ensure a multidimensional, integrated and gender-sensitive approach to poverty eradication in accordance with, inter alia, the provisions of the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, the Platform for Action, adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women, and General Assembly resolution 50/227. In its consideration of cross-cutting elements common to major international conferences, and its overall review of the implementation of the programme of action of a United Nations conference, the Council will give due priority to poverty eradication.

"37. The Council will carry out an overall review of the theme of poverty eradication at a date to be determined, as a contribution to the review of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development. In accordance with their programmes of work as approved by the Council, the relevant functional commissions should, in 1999-2000, prepare technical and focused inputs for the Council's overall review of poverty eradication.

"38. The report of ACC and the results of the work of the ad hoc inter-agency task forces and inter-agency standing committees established by ACC for follow-up to conferences as they pertain to poverty eradication should be reviewed during the coordination segment when the Council considers poverty eradication. Other aspects of the ACC report should be considered during the general segment under the appropriate agenda items.

"B. Functional commissions

"39. In accordance with the agreed conclusions adopted at its substantive session of 1995, 5/ the Council shall ensure, on a continuing basis, coordination of the items of the multi-year programmes of the functional commissions related to poverty eradication and a better division of labour among them, based on their respective mandates.

"40. As the functional commission with the primary responsibility for the follow-up to and review of the implementation of the World Summit for

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5/ See A/50/3, chap. III, para. 22.

Social Development, the Commission for Social Development, in support of the Council's function, should provide an integrated approach to national and international poverty eradication strategies and other areas covered by its mandate. Ongoing efforts to enhance the role of the Commission for Social Development and to improve its functioning in the context of the follow-up to the Summit, should be pursued and deepened, based, inter alia, on the recommendations and decisions adopted at the 1996 special session of the Commission. Adequate Secretariat support to the Commission should be ensured. Task managers should be identified for specific issues, so as to involve more closely the concerned specialized agencies and other parts of the United Nations system in supporting the work of the Commission.

"41. The other relevant functional commissions have valuable contributions to make in addressing poverty eradication from their particular perspective and within their own mandate, while avoiding unnecessary duplication and overlap, and should focus on the linkages between their own field of competence and poverty eradication. This should be done as set out below.

"42. The Commission on Sustainable Development should focus its work related to poverty in accordance with paragraph 6 of its decision 4/2 on combating poverty. 6/ The Commission on Sustainable Development should rely on inputs from the Commission for Social Development, the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Population and Development, as necessary, in order to enhance the implementation of those recommendations of chapter 3 (Combating poverty) of Agenda 21 7/ that correspond to core areas of the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women and the International Conference on Population and Development, respectively.

"43. The Commission on the Status of Women has a special role to play in intergovernmental consideration of poverty eradication. While assisting the Council in reviewing and appraising progress in and promoting the inclusion of a gender perspective in policies and programmes of other functional commissions and system wide, the Commission on the Status of Women, in its discussion on poverty, should continue to focus on women in poverty. The Commission on the Status of Women should play a catalytic role in reviewing and promoting the follow-up to the recommendations on gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of poverty eradication of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women, the World Summit for Social Development, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and other conferences. The Commission for Social Development should draw upon the work of the Commission on the Status of Women in the evaluation of measures adopted by the Summit that relate to various aspects of gender equality.

"44. The Commission on the Status of Women should determine, in consultation with other functional commissions, the best way to cooperate in reviewing the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in their

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6/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 8 (E/1996/28), chap. I, sect. C, decision 4/2.

7/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

respective areas in general, and under poverty in particular. Relevant functional commissions should consider having in their agendas a review of the gender implications of policies falling under their competence.

"45. The Commission on Human Rights, in the context of its work on poverty, should focus on the relationship between all human rights, including the right to development, and poverty, notably extreme poverty. In this context, it should make the maximum use of relevant work of other commissions and the Council. The Commission on Human Rights could consider providing an input to the Commission on the Status of Women on ensuring women's equal enjoyment of their human rights, in particular those relating to economic resources.

"46. The Commission on Population and Development should address issues relating to poverty and population in the context of the outcome of the International Conference on Population and Development.

"47. The Commission on Science and Technology for Development should continue to take into account the relationship between science and technology and poverty eradication and the contribution of advances in science and technology to poverty eradication and meeting the basic needs of all, subject to any changes that may be required, taking into account the review of the role and working methods of the Commission and its relationship with other bodies in the context of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/227.

"48. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice should provide appropriate inputs into the consideration of poverty-related issues by the Commission for Social Development, notably in its discussion of social integration and participation of all people, scheduled for 1998, and into other relevant functional commissions as appropriate.

"49. The mechanisms established by ACC for the follow-up to conferences should support the work of functional commissions on poverty-related issues within their mandates and priorities, and the executive boards of funds and programmes should become more closely involved with their work. The work of the newly created Inter-Agency Committee on Women should complement and reinforce the work of the Commission on the Status of Women.

"50. Other commissions, committees and expert bodies of the Council should also contribute, as appropriate, to the work of the functional commissions with responsibilities for specific aspects of poverty eradication.

"C. Consideration of common themes by the functional commissions or by the Council

"51. The Economic and Social Council should discuss issues of the enabling national and international environment in the economic, social and related fields, including the mobilization of resources. The functional commissions should focus their consideration of those issues, as they relate to poverty eradication, on aspects that fall within their respective areas of competence. The Council will contribute to the preparation of the General Assembly review on the theme of poverty eradication, with inputs from all functional commissions in their respective areas, as part of its consideration of the enabling environment.

"1. Integrated national strategies for poverty eradication

"52. The elaboration of integrated strategies against poverty falls primarily within the responsibility and competence of Member States. The Commission for Social Development should foster an exchange of national experiences in the formulation and implementation of poverty eradication strategies, plans, programmes and priorities, and take these into account in formulating its views. The Commission for Social Development should present its views on this matter when it reports to the Council on its review of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development.

"2. Basic social services as a crucial instrument for poverty eradication

"53. The Commission for Social Development will examine the theme of 'Social services for all' in 1999 in the context of its multi-year programme of work with particular focus on education. This examination could also serve as an input into the overall review of the International Conference on Population and Development in 1999. The Commission on Population and Development will not need to conduct a separate discussion of education but should continue to examine education and awareness programmes targeted at population objectives.

"54. Other functional commissions should contribute, as appropriate, to the examination of this theme by the Commission for Social Development through the provision of focused inputs. For example, the Commission for Social Development could draw upon the work of the Commission on Human Rights on the promotion and protection of human rights. Similarly, it could draw upon the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development concerning environmental health and safe drinking water and sanitation. Also, the Commission for Social Development could draw upon the work of the Commission on Population and Development on access to health care, including reproductive health care, and on the work of the Commission on the Status of Women on the theme of education.

"55. The Commission for Social Development, in cooperation with the relevant specialized agencies and United Nations organizations, should assist the Council in reviewing the achievement of goals and targets set by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the International Conference on Population and Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women and the World Summit for Social Development in the areas of child and maternal health, basic education, and other areas of basic social services, in the effort to combat poverty, drawing upon the work undertaken by other bodies in charge of promoting and reviewing the implementation of these targets for other conference follow-up. Promoting and reviewing the implementation of the targets in the area of shelter and urban infrastructure could be left to the Commission on Human Settlements and those in the area of water and sanitation to the Commission on Sustainable Development.

"3. Productive employment

"56. The Commission for Social Development will examine productive employment and sustainable livelihoods in 1997. When dealing with the sub-theme of 'Improving access to productive resources and infrastructure', the Commission should focus on measures that increase such access by people living in poverty. The Commission for Social Development should build on the work to be undertaken by the Commission on the Status of Women in 1997 on 'Women and the economy' and by the Commission on Sustainable Development on environmentally related aspects of employment. The work of the ACC Inter-Agency Task Force on Employment and Sustainable Livelihoods should be fully taken into account in the preparations for the discussions in the Commission for Social Development.

"4. Vulnerability, social integration and participation of people living in poverty

"57. The Commission for Social Development has an important role concerning the issue of measures for vulnerable groups and social protection, as well as participation. It is to carry out an overall review of the theme of promoting social integration and participation of all people in 1998. The Commission for Social Development, in preparing for and addressing this theme, should take into account the relevant parts of the results of other major conferences and follow-up work being undertaken by the relevant commissions as well as by relevant inter-agency bodies. All relevant functional commissions, including the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on the Status of Women, as well as the Commission on Human Settlements, should provide inputs to this examination.

"5. Statistics

"58. The Council encourages the Statistical Commission to pursue its work on the statistical implications of the World Summit for Social Development and other recent major international conferences. Close links should be developed between its work and the ongoing elaboration of sustainable development indicators, including the work of ACC and its subsidiary machinery. The Statistical Commission is invited to share the results of the work of the Expert Group on Poverty Statistics and the report on the seminar to be held on poverty statistics as inputs for the Commission for Social Development and the Council for the review of recommendations of chapter II (Eradication of poverty) of the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development. The Statistical Commission should also provide an input to the Commission on the Status of Women for its review of the implementation of the recommendations on poverty measurement made by the Fourth World Conference on Women. The Statistical Commission should also provide inputs to other relevant functional commissions on the recommendations on poverty measurement made by various United Nations conferences and summits. ACC should fully support this work. Duplication should be avoided in the work of commissions related to the issue of poverty measurement. In the work related to developing indicators of social development, the work carried out by different countries, in particular developing countries, should be taken into account. The capacity of the United Nations system for providing policy and technical support and advice, upon request, to improve national capacities in this regard, should also be strengthened."

B. Implementation of the agreed conclusions of the 1995 coordination segment of the Council

INTRODUCTION

3. The Council considered the question of the implementation of the agreed conclusions of the 1995 coordination segment of the Council (agenda item 3 (b)) at its 23rd, 31st, 35th, 47th, 51st and 52nd meetings, on 3, 11, 16, 24 and 26 July 1996. An account of the discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (E/1996/SR.23, 31, 35, 47, 51 and 52). The Council had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the agreed conclusions on the theme of the 1995 coordination segment of the Council relating to coordinated follow-up by the United Nations system and implementation of the results of the major international conferences organized by the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields (E/1996/59).

ACTION TAKEN BY THE COUNCIL

4. Under agenda item 3 (b), the Council adopted two resolutions.

Resolutions

1996/36. Follow-up to the major international United Nations conferences and summits, including the implementation of their respective programmes of action

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 45/264 of 13 May 1991, on restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, and Assembly resolutions 46/235 of 13 April 1992, 48/162 of 20 December 1993 and 50/227 of 24 May 1996, on further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields,

Recalling also its agreed conclusions 1995/1 on coordinated follow-up by the United Nations system and implementation of the results of the major international conferences organized by the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, 8/

Recognizing the efforts made by the Secretary-General through the Administrative Committee on Coordination for establishing coordinating inter-agency mechanisms in support of the follow-up of the major international conferences and summits, including the implementation of their respective programmes of action,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system: implementation of the agreed conclusions on the theme of the 1995 coordination segment of the Council", 9/

8/ See A/50/3, chap. III, para. 22.

9/ E/1996/59.

1. Decides that the Council shall continue to ensure, on a regular basis, the harmonization and coordination of the multi-year work programmes of relevant functional commissions by promoting a clear division of labour among them and providing clear policy guidance to them;

2. Invites the Administrative Committee on Coordination to take into consideration the decisions, resolutions and agreed conclusions of the Council and its functional commissions as the basis for inter-agency follow-up of the major United Nations conferences in the economic, social and related fields, including the selection of cross-cutting themes for its work;

3. Also invites the Administrative Committee on Coordination to present the reports on the work of its task forces on an enabling environment for economic and social development, basic social services for all, and employment and sustainable livelihoods, as well as inter-agency committees on sustainable development and women and gender equality to the substantive session of 1997 of the Council and to identify policy and coordination issues to be addressed by the Council and the General Assembly;

4. Further invites the Administrative Committee on Coordination to consider specific areas to enhance system-wide coordination in the themes identified for the coordination segment of the Council and to bring system-wide coordination issues to the attention of the Council and to make recommendations thereon;

5. Calls upon all relevant organizations of the United Nations system to integrate the results of the major international conferences in the economic, social and related fields into their programmes of work and to contribute relevant information, analyses and assessments to the consolidated report of the Secretary-General in support of the Council's own thematic reviews;

6. Requests the Secretary-General, in accordance with agreed conclusions 1995/1, to present reports in a timely manner and in a concise format, clearly identifying the issues and outlining options for action and their implications in order to facilitate decision-making by the Council and its subsidiary bodies;

7. Reiterates the importance of the provisions on mobilization of resources contained in agreed conclusions 1995/1 8/ for the effective implementation of the results of the major international conferences in the economic, social and related fields.

51st plenary meeting
26 July 1996

1996/41. Follow-up to General Assembly resolution 50/227: initiation of reviews

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 45/264 of 13 May 1991, 46/235 of 13 April 1992, 48/162 of 20 December 1993 and 50/227 of 24 May 1996, as well as Council agreed conclusions 1995/1 10/ and Council decision 1996/203 of 9 February 1996,

Reaffirming the role assigned to the Council in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/227,

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10/ See A/50/3, chap. III, para. 22.

Conscious of the specific call made by the General Assembly for relevant intergovernmental bodies to fully implement the measures contained in its resolution 50/227,

Noting that, according to paragraph 67 of annex I to General Assembly resolution 50/227, the Council should regularly review the agenda of its general segment,

Noting also that, pursuant to paragraph 70 of annex I to General of Assembly resolution 50/227, the Council is to undertake a review of the mandates, composition, functions and working methods of its functional commissions and expert groups and bodies,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 50/113 of 20 December 1995, in which the Assembly mandated the special session of the Assembly, scheduled in June 1997, to review, inter alia, the future role of the Commission on Sustainable Development, including its relationship with the United Nations Environment Programme,

Noting that, pursuant to paragraph 71 of annex I to General Assembly resolution 50/227, the Council should consider, as a matter of priority, the role, working methods and relationship with other bodies of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, the Committee for Development Planning, the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development, and the Committee on Natural Resources,

Taking into consideration that, in accordance with paragraphs 74 and 75 of annex I to General Assembly resolution 50/227, the Council should provide for the review of the regional commissions with a view to strengthening and enhancing their effectiveness,

Noting that the globalization and interdependence that characterize the world economy have greatly increased the tasks of the regional commissions in their role of assisting their Member States to cope with opportunities and challenges as well as risks,

Noting also that the agreements and commitments adopted at the recent United Nations conferences have further compounded the tasks of the regional commissions in assisting Member States in implementing such agreements and commitments,

Noting with satisfaction the efforts undertaken by a number of regional commissions to initiate a significant reform process, including the setting of priorities based on a dialogue with their intergovernmental bodies,

1. Decides to consider as a matter of priority, at its resumed substantive session to be held before the end of 1996, the possible changes in and/or adjustments to its agenda with a view to ensuring that all issues included in General Assembly resolution 50/227 will be examined by the Council;

A. General segment

2. Also decides to consider, also as a matter of priority, at the resumed substantive session, a review of the agenda of the Council's general segment in accordance with paragraph 67 of annex I to General Assembly resolution 50/227;

B. Functional commissions and expert groups and bodies

3. Reaffirms that the review of the mandates, composition, functions and working methods of its functional commissions and expert groups and bodies should be completed by the fifty-second session of the General Assembly;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive document compiling information on the mandates, composition, functions and working methods of the functional commissions and expert groups and bodies and to submit it to the Council not later than February 1997;

5. Decides to begin consideration during its substantive session of 1997 of the role, working methods and relationship with other bodies of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, the Committee for Development Planning, the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development, and the Committee on Natural Resources;

6. Requests the President of the Council to establish arrangements for informal open-ended consultations during the Council's substantive session of 1997 in order to better prepare for further work of the Council on this issue;

7. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its substantive session of 1997 an item entitled "Implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/227";

8. Also decides to further consider the review of the functional commissions and expert groups and bodies comprehensively during a resumed substantive session in the fall of 1997 and to take decisions at that time;

C. Regional commissions

9. Requests the regional commissions to continue undertaking their own reviews, as called for in General Assembly resolution 50/227, and to report to the Council at its substantive session of 1997;

10. Reaffirms the need for the above-mentioned reviews and reform processes currently being undertaken by the regional commissions to be carried out, aiming at improving the effectiveness and efficiency of these bodies by eliminating unnecessary duplication or overlapping of work and by ensuring a better structural relationship among themselves and with the Council;

11. Decides that the Council will take a decision at its substantive session of 1997 concerning further action on how to achieve the objectives set out in paragraphs 74 and 75 of annex I to General Assembly resolution 50/227, taking into account the above-mentioned reviews.

52nd plenary meeting
26 July 1996

PROCEEDINGS

Follow-up to General Assembly resolution 50/227: initiation of reviews

5. At the 31st meeting, on 11 July, the representative of Canada on behalf also of Norway, 11/ and the Russian Federation introduced a draft resolution (E/1996/L.21) entitled "Follow-up to General Assembly resolution 50/227: initiation of reviews", which read as follows:

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Recalling General Assembly resolutions 45/264 of 13 May 1991 and 46/235 of 13 April 1992, Economic and Social Council decision 1996/203 of 9 February 1996, the implementation of the agreed conclusions 1995/1, and the pertinent measures called for in Assembly resolution 50/227 of 24 May 1996,

"Conscious of the specific call made by the General Assembly for relevant intergovernmental bodies to fully implement the measures contained in its resolution 50/227,

"Reaffirming the central role assigned to the Economic and Social Council in the implementation of Assembly resolution 50/227,

"Noting, in particular, the requirements for the Council to review the mandates, composition, functions and working methods of its functional commissions and expert groups and bodies, to consider as a matter of priority the role, working methods and relationship with other bodies of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, the Committee for Development Planning, the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, and the Committee on Natural Resources, and to provide for the review of the regional commissions with a view to strengthening and enhancing their effectiveness,

"Recognizing the potential contribution of the Council's review of the four bodies mentioned above to the review of the implementation of Agenda 21 to be conducted by the General Assembly at its special session of 1997,

"Noting with satisfaction the internal reviews already under way in a number of regional commissions,

"A. Functional commissions and expert groups and bodies

"1. Decides to convene a resumed session of the Economic and Social Council for five days in early 1997 to consider the role, working methods and relationship with other bodies in the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, the Committee for Development Planning, the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and Energy for Development, and the Committee on Natural Resources;

"2. Requests the Secretary-General, in order that the Council may properly prepare for the resumed session, to submit, no later than

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11/ In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

1 January 1997, a report on the role, working methods and relationship with other bodies of the four bodies mentioned above, identifying, inter alia:

"(a) The principal outputs and/or products emanating from each body;

"(b) The other functional commissions and/or expert groups and bodies that make use of those outputs;

"(c) Other forums within the United Nations system in which similar issues are discussed;

"(d) The issues in each body's purview that require an intergovernmental or expert contribution, and the nature of that contribution;

"(e) The source of expert and secretariat support for each body;

"3. Resolves to take any further decisions that may be required on the matter of the four bodies mentioned above at its substantive session of 1997;

"4. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its substantive session of 1997 the sub-item entitled 'Review of the mandates, composition, functions and working methods of functional commissions and expert groups and bodies';

"B. Regional commissions

"5. Reaffirms the need to provide for a review of the regional commissions with a view to strengthening and enhancing their effectiveness as action-oriented and policy-oriented bodies;

"6. Requests the executive secretaries of the regional commissions to undertake and/or complete internal reviews, including priorities for management and functional assessments, and to report to the Council at its substantive session of 1997;

"7. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a report, drawing on the internal reviews of the regional commissions, in order that the Council may properly prepare for its substantive session of 1997;

"8. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its substantive session of 1997 the sub-item entitled 'Review of the regional commissions'."

6. At the 52nd meeting, on 26 July, the Council had before it the text of the draft resolution (subsequently issued in document E/1996/L.50) entitled "Follow-up to General Assembly resolution 50/227: initiation of reviews" which was submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Mr. Karel Kovanda (Czech Republic) on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution E/1996/L.21.

7. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Council read out a statement of the programme budget implications of draft resolution E/1996/L.50.

8. The Council then adopted the draft resolution. See Council resolution 1996/41 (para. 4 above).

9. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution E/1966/L.50, draft resolution E/1996/L.21 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

10. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Canada, Ireland (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), the United States of America and Costa Rica (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China) and the observer for Algeria.

Strengthening collaboration between the United Nations development system and the Bretton Woods institutions

11. At the 35th meeting, on 16 July, the representative of the United States of America introduced a draft resolution (E/1996/L.22) entitled "Strengthening collaboration between the United Nations development system and the Bretton Woods institutions". The draft resolution was considered under item 4 (b) (see chap. IV below, paras. 10-13).

Implementation of and follow-up to the major international United Nations conferences and summits

12. At the 47th meeting, on 24 July, the representative of Costa Rica (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China) introduced a draft resolution (E/1996/L.39) entitled "Implementation of and follow-up to the major international United Nations conferences and summits", which read as follows:

> "The Economic and Social Council,
>
> "Recalling General Assembly resolution 45/264 of 13 May 1991, on restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, and resolutions 48/162 of 20 December 1993 and 50/227 of 2 July 1996, on further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields,
>
> "Recalling also its agreed conclusions 1995/1 on coordinated follow-up by the United Nations system and implementation of the results of the major international conferences organized by the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields,
>
> "Recognizing the efforts made by the United Nations Secretariat through the Administrative Committee on Coordination for establishing a coordinating inter-agency mechanism in support of the implementation and follow-up of the major international conferences and summits,
>
> "Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled 'Coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system: implementation of the agreed conclusions on the theme of the 1995 coordination segment of the Council', 12/

12/ E/1996/59.

"Noting with regret the continued decline in official development assistance devoted to the implementation and follow-up of the major international conferences organized by the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields,

"1. Reaffirms its decision to adopt a multi-year programme of work for the integrated follow-up to and the coordinated implementation of the major international conferences organized by the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, taking into account the multi-year programmes of work adopted by the functional commissions;

"2. Requests the Secretary-General to present a report to the 1997 substantive session of the Council, containing an analysis of the multi-year programmes of work of the relevant functional commissions, along with recommendations for better harmonizing and coordinating their respective multi-year work programmes with that of the annual substantive session of the Council;

"3. Invites the Administrative Committee on Coordination to take into consideration the decisions, resolutions and agreed conclusions of the Council and its subsidiary bodies in the selection of cross-cutting themes as the basis for inter-agency follow-up of the major United Nations conferences in the economic, social and related fields;

"4. Invites also the Administrative Committee on Coordination to present the report of its task forces on an enabling environment for economic and social development, basic social services for all, employment and sustainable livelihoods, and women to the substantive session of the Council in 1997 and to identify policy and coordination issues to be addressed by the Council and the General Assembly;

"5. Calls upon all organizations of the United Nations system to integrate the results of the major international conferences in the economic, social and related fields into their programmes of work and to contribute relevant information, analyses and assessments to the consolidated report of the Secretary-General in support of the Council's own thematic reviews;

"6. Requests the Secretary-General, in accordance with agreed conclusions 1995/1, to present reports in a timely manner and in a concise format, clearly identifying the issues and outlining options for action and their implications in order to facilitate decision-making by the Council and its subsidiary bodies;

"7. Urges all member States to honour their commitments, particularly with respect to the provision of adequate resources, to ensure full implementation of the results of the major international conferences in the economic, social and related fields and to continue considering the vital issue of mobilizing new and additional resources, including new and innovative sources of financing, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the programmes of action of the major international conferences;

"8. Urges also all member States and the United Nations system to facilitate transfer of technology to developing countries on concessional and preferential terms so as to enable them to meet the agreed goals and targets of the international conferences."

13. At the 51st meeting, on 26 July, the Vice-President of the Council, Mr. Gerhard Henze (Germany), introduced a draft resolution (E/1996/L.43) entitled "Follow-up to the major international United Nations conferences and summits, including the implementation of their respective programmes of action", submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution E/1996/L.39.

14. At the same meeting, the Council adopted draft resolution E/1996/L.43. See Council resolution 1996/36 (para. 4 above).

15. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution E/1996/L.43, draft resolution E/1996/L.39 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

16. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of Canada made a statement.

Chapter IV

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES SEGMENT

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

1. At its substantive session, the Council considered the question of operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation (agenda item 4). At the 26th and 27th meetings, on 9 July 1996, it held an informal dialogue with the United Nations system country teams from Egypt and Malawi. An account of the Council's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (E/1996/SR.26 and 27).

A. Follow-up to policy recommendations of the General Assembly

2. At its substantive session, the Council considered the question of follow-up to policy recommendations of the General Assembly (agenda item 4 (a)) at its 24th, 25th, 29th and 52nd meetings, on 8, 10 and 26 July 1996. An account of the discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (E/1996/SR.24, 25, 29 and 52). The Council had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretary-General drawing the attention of the Council to the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "United Nations system common premises and services in the field" contained in document A/49/629 (E/1996/43);

(b) Comments of the Administrative Committee on Coordination on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit contained in document A/49/629 (A/51/124-E/1996/44);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/120 (E/1996/64);

(d) Note by the Secretary-General on comprehensive statistical data on operational activities for development for the year 1994 (E/1996/64/Add.2 and Corr.1 and 2).

ACTION TAKEN BY THE COMMITTEE

3. Under agenda item 4 (a), the Council adopted one resolution and one decision.

Resolution

1996/42. Progress on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/120

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 44/211 of 22 December 1989, 46/219 of 20 December 1991, 47/199 of 22 December 1992 and 50/120 of 20 December 1995, in which the Assembly invited the Council, at its substantive session of 1996, to consider, inter alia, the issues of harmonization and administrative

services, common premises and monitoring and evaluation, on the basis of progress reports by the Secretary-General, including appropriate recommendations,

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 48/162 of 20 December 1993 and 50/227 of 24 May 1996,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on progress on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/120 on the triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, and on the management process for implementation requested in paragraph 52 of Assembly resolution 50/120, 1/

1. Welcomes the report of the Secretary-General; 1/

2. Strongly reaffirms that the efficiency, effectiveness and impact of the operational activities of the United Nations system must be enhanced by, inter alia, a substantial increase in their funding on a predictable, continuous and assured basis, commensurate with the increasing needs of developing countries, as well as through the full implementation of General Assembly resolutions 47/199, 48/162, 50/120 and 50/227;

3. Reaffirms the need for simplification and harmonization of rules and procedures in order to increase the overall effectiveness, efficiency and impact of the operational activities for international development of the United Nations development system, as well as the need to facilitate and increase national execution, bearing in mind the need not to overburden the host Government; to this end, the United Nations development system is requested to report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1997 on progress made towards the following:

(a) Improving the definition and guidelines for the programme approach, bearing in mind the need to further simplify and harmonize procedures and to allow sufficient flexibility for their application at the field level;

(b) Promoting a common understanding of capacity-building concepts and their operationalization, as well as on ways of enhancing the sustainability of capacity-building;

(c) Facilitating and increasing synergies between the activities of the funds and programmes of the United Nations system through the use of harmonized and synchronized programming and, as far as possible, enhancing collaboration in all areas of programming, including evaluations and mid-term reviews;

(d) Developing and implementing an agreed methodology to establish common country databases in consultation with national Governments;

4. Urges the funds and programmes of the United Nations system to finalize work on the harmonization of their budget presentations in time for a final decision to be made by their respective executive boards in advance of the biennium 1998-1999, and to include in this work a common presentational framework for the budget based on agreed definitions and usage of budget terms and the identification of additional steps required for further harmonization and improved transparency;

1/ E/1996/64 and Add.1 and 2 and Add.2/Corr.1 and 2, and Add.3.

5. Emphasizes the need to accelerate efforts to complete a common manual based both on a building-block approach and on a need to integrate and clarify existing guidelines, including the operationalization of the outcomes of the recent series of major United Nations conferences;

6. Expresses concern at the lack of progress made towards the use of common administrative services and requests the funds and programmes of the United Nations system, with due concern given to effectiveness, efficiency and the impact of their activities, to:

(a) Simplify and harmonize administrative and financial procedures in a systematic way and at all levels, so that common administrative services can be established where feasible;

(b) Work towards increased delegation of decision-making authority and accountability to the country level and, where appropriate, the regional level, and their harmonization among funds and programmes;

(c) Set measurable targets and time-frames for the achievement of common administrative services, including the identification of priority areas for enhanced efforts, such as telecommunications, and financial and personnel-related services;

(d) Develop guidelines on how to establish and operate a common services account;

7. Reaffirms the need to raise the target for common premises on a case-by-case basis, taking into account cost-benefit analysis and operational sustainability, using lessons learned during the implementation of this request and avoiding an increased burden on host countries; requests the funds and programmes of the United Nations system to develop a plan of action, administrative arrangements and a time-frame for the implementation of this request; and encourages the United Nations specialized agencies and regional offices to share those common premises where practicable;

8. Stresses the importance of strengthening the monitoring and evaluation activities of the United Nations development system; also stresses the significance of promoting at the country level, under the leadership of Governments, close monitoring and evaluation collaboration among national Governments, the United Nations development system and relevant development partners and, in this context, reiterates the need for the United Nations development system to support, when requested by Governments, the strengthening of national evaluation capacities; and requests that joint evaluations of operational activities, including thematic evaluations and coordinated programme reviews, be undertaken, making the fullest possible use of national capacity in this area;

9. Reaffirms the need for the United Nations development system to increase its consideration and application of lessons learned from monitoring and evaluation activities, and calls for a system-wide effort to monitor and report on the frequency and quality of programmed and completed evaluations, the identification and use of lessons learned, and the number of joint evaluations planned and undertaken;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the Economic and Social Council and the governing bodies of individual funds and programmes and specialized agencies are provided with information on evaluation activities that

is quantifiable and comparable, and that specifies an evaluation's type, coverage, scope, timing, and compliance;

11. Urges all funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations development system to identify measurable targets to strengthen their monitoring and evaluation capabilities, to incorporate those targets into their respective management plans to implement General Assembly resolution 50/120 and to intensify their cooperation in the development of monitoring and evaluation methodologies;

12. Requests the Secretary-General, in his progress report on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/120, for submission to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1997, to consider, inter alia, capacity-building, field- and regional-level coordination and resources; and also requests the Secretary-General, in the context of field- and regional-level coordination, to highlight the problems encountered, make appropriate recommendations and discuss the functioning of thematic groups and field-level committees, and, in regard to resources, to include an analytical assessment of the implications on operational activities for development of the recent trends in core and non-core resources and to make recommendations on how to increase core resources and effectively implement section I of annex I to Assembly resolution 50/227.

52nd plenary meeting
26 July 1996

Decision

1996/227. Reports considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with the question of follow-up to policy recommendations of the General Assembly

At its 29th plenary meeting, on 10 July 1996, the Economic and Social Council took note of the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretary-General drawing the attention of the Council to the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "United Nations system common premises and services in the field" contained in document A/49/629; 2/

(b) Comments of the Administrative Committee on Coordination on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit contained in document A/49/629. 3/

PROCEEDINGS

Progress on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/120

4. At the 52nd meeting, on 26 July, the Council had before it a draft resolution (E/1996/L.45) entitled "Progress on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/120", submitted by the delegation of Canada.

2/ E/1996/43.

3/ A/51/124-E/1996/44.

5. At the same meeting, the Vice-President of the Council, Mr. Karel Kovanda (Czech Republic), informed the Council of the results of informal consultations held on the draft resolution and orally revised the text as follows:

(a) The third preambular paragraph was converted into an operative paragraph (operative paragraph 2), and the words "from all sources", which followed the words "a substantial increase in their funding", were deleted;

(b) In operative paragraph 12, the words "decline in core resources, where this has occurred, and of the increase in non-core resources, where this has occurred; and further requests the Secretary-General to make recommendations on how best to implement" were replaced by the words "recent trends in core and non-core resources and to make recommendations on how to increase core resources and effectively implement".

6. Also at the 52nd meeting, the Council adopted draft resolution E/1996/L.45, as orally revised. See Council resolution 1996/42 (para. 3 above).

B. Coordination of activities on a system-wide basis: strengthening collaboration between the United Nations development system and the Bretton Woods institutions in the areas of social and economic development at all levels, including the field level

7. At its substantive session, the Council considered the question of coordination of activities on a system-wide basis: strengthening collaboration between the United Nations development system and the Bretton Woods institutions in the areas of social and economic development at all levels, including the field level (agenda item 4 (b)), at its 16th to 18th, 31st, 35th and 52nd meetings, on 28 June and 1, 11, 16 and 26 July 1996. An account of the discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (E/1994/SR.16-18, 31, 35 and 52). The Council had before it a note by the Secretariat on the coordination of activities on a system-wide basis: strengthening collaboration between the United Nations development system and the Bretton Woods institutions in the areas of social and economic development at all levels, including the field level (E/1996/72 and Corr.1).

ACTION TAKEN BY THE COUNCIL

8. Under agenda item 4 (b), the Council adopted one resolution.

Resolution

1996/43. Strengthening collaboration between the United Nations development system and the Bretton Woods institutions

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 50/120 of 20 December 1995 on the triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system and 50/227 of 24 May 1996 on further measures for the

restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields,

Recognizing the importance of strengthening the collaboration between the United Nations development system and the Bretton Woods institutions at the intergovernmental, intersecretariat and country levels,

Recognizing also the importance of joint initiatives between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions in coordinating efforts for the implementation and follow-up of the commitments of the major United Nations international conferences and summits,

Reaffirming that the recipient Government should play a leading role in the overall coordination of collaboration at the country level,

Concerned about the potentially serious impact on development of the decline in resources allocated to the operational activities for development of the United Nations system,

Concerned also about the incomplete fulfilment of commitments to the tenth replenishment of the International Development Association, and hoping that adequate resources will be made available for the eleventh replenishment,

Taking into account the ongoing deliberation on an agenda for development in which issues relating to the strengthening of the relationship between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions are being addressed,

Recalling Chapters IX and X of the Charter of the United Nations, with particular reference to the provisions setting forth the powers and functions of the Economic and Social Council with respect to making recommendations and coordinating United Nations system activities within the scope of its competence,

Reaffirming the importance of strengthening cooperation, communication and collaboration between the Council and its relevant subsidiary bodies, on the one hand, and the Bretton Woods institutions, on the other, in order to maximize the effectiveness of their respective development programmes and activities,

Noting the need to improve the Council's high-level sessions with the international financial and trade institutions by better preparing for and focusing the high-level dialogue, thereby advancing such cooperation, communication and collaboration and enhancing the quality, outcomes and value of the exchange of views,

1. Takes note of the note by the Secretariat on the coordination of activities on a system-wide basis: strengthening collaboration between the United Nations development system and the Bretton Woods institutions in the areas of social and economic development at all levels, including the field level; 4/

2. Considers that the strengthening of collaboration between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions requires an integrated approach, encompassing a closer policy dialogue at the intergovernmental level on relevant areas of international development policy issues, taking into account their respective competencies;

4/ E/1996/72 and Corr.1.

3. Looks forward to the report and accompanying recommendations to be prepared jointly by the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions in accordance with paragraph 88 of annex I to General Assembly resolution 50/227, on an early exploratory review to assess mechanisms, programmes and relationships at the field, headquarters and intergovernmental levels, with a view to identifying areas in which communication, cooperation and coordination could be improved;

4. Recommends the scheduling of a high-level special meeting at a time proximate to the semi-annual meetings of the Bretton Woods institutions with a view to benefiting, to the extent possible, from ministerial participation and from the participation of heads of financial and trade institutions and other relevant organizations, as called for by the General Assembly in paragraph 88 of annex I to its resolution 50/227;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to consult the heads of the financial institutions by early 1997 in order to explore the possibilities and practical modalities of scheduling such a meeting; at a session of the Council to be held in early 1997, the Council should discuss the format, timing and possible agenda for the first such meeting;

6. Decides to explore concrete modalities for strengthening the exchange of information on development issues between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions;

7. Also decides that, prior to the annual high-level policy dialogue between the Council and the international financial and trade institutions, and allowing sufficient time for preparation, the Secretariat should communicate to the financial and trade institutions a report on the relevant issues to be discussed at the session, with a primary focus on the agreed theme; and that communication should be prepared in part based on the submission of issues and questions that Member States could be invited to suggest to the Secretariat, which would then be taken into account in the preparation of the Secretariat's report to the institutions;

8. Recommends, in order to better focus the policy dialogue, exploring the possibility of having joint reports prepared by the Secretariat of the United Nations, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization;

9. Invites the financial and trade institutions participating in the high-level segment of the Council in 1997 to furnish relevant reports and studies on the selected theme, within their respective mandates and areas of expertise, and on important developments in the world economy and in international economic cooperation;

10. Invites the Bretton Woods institutions to strengthen their cooperation with the United Nations Secretariat on issues falling within their respective competencies, such as multilateral external debt, challenges and opportunities of global financial integration and financing for development;

11. Decides to encourage cooperative working relations between the relevant units of the Bretton Woods institutions and the regional commissions, including, inter alia, improved arrangements for data collection and information exchange;

12. Also decides that full implementation of existing agreements, the strengthening of existing mechanisms and the exploration of new avenues and mechanisms of cooperation between the Bretton Woods institutions and other bodies of the United Nations system should be encouraged and undertaken within the framework provided by the resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council through, inter alia, participation in relevant meetings, information-gathering, information exchange, research, policy analysis and operational activities;

13. Stresses that the recipient Government should play a leading role in the overall coordination of the collaboration between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions at the country level and that this collaboration should be on the basis of country-driven activities;

14. Also stresses that the fundamental characteristics of the operational activities of the United Nations system should be, inter alia, their universal, voluntary and grant nature, their neutrality and their multilateralism, as well as their ability to respond to the needs of developing countries in a flexible manner; and the operational activities of the United Nations system should be carried out for the benefit of the developing countries, at the request of those countries and in accordance with their own policies and priorities for development. The United Nations development system should take into account the specific needs and requirements of the countries with economies in transition;

15. Considers that efforts should be made to promote, in consultation and agreement with Governments, complementarity between the country strategy notes, where they exist, the policy framework papers of the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Bank's country assistance strategies;

16. Emphasizes that the United Nations development system and the Bretton Woods institutions should expand, whenever appropriate, their collaboration in co-financing field programmes and projects and should continue to explore innovative ways to combine and maximize their resources, under the overall guidance of the national Governments, in support of development activities at the field level;

17. Invites the United Nations development system and the Bretton Woods institutions to improve their cooperation in the preparation, discussion and follow-up of round-table meetings and consultative groups to promote policy discussions, as appropriate;

18. Stresses that the United Nations development system and the Bretton Woods institutions have to take full account of the exchange of experiences and lessons learned and that, in the course of their work, staff exchanges and information-sharing, in particular the sharing of evaluation methodologies and results, should be encouraged.

52nd plenary meeting
26 July 1996

Strengthening collaboration between the United Nations development system and the Bretton Woods institutions

9. At the 31st meeting, on 11 July, the representative of Costa Rica, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution (E/1996/L.20) entitled "Strengthening collaboration between the United Nations development system and the Bretton Woods institutions", which read as follows:

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Recalling General Assembly resolution 50/120 of 20 December 1995, on the triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system,

"Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/50, in which the Council decided to place the subject on the agenda of its 1996 substantive session,

"Reaffirming the goals contained in section VIII of annex I to General Assembly resolution 50/227 of 24 May 1996, concerning the relationship between the United Nations and international finance and trade institutions, and General Assembly resolutions 50/91 and 50/92 of 20 December 1995, dealing, respectively, with challenges and opportunities of global financial integration and enhancing international cooperation towards a durable solution to the external debt problem of developing countries,

"Taking into account the ongoing deliberations on an agenda for development, in which issues relating to the strengthening of the relationship between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions are being addressed,

"Considering that the broad mandate of the United Nations development system, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and its expertise in dealing in an integrated manner with economic and development issues, globalization and interdependence provide a good basis for strengthening further cooperation with the Bretton Woods institutions,

"Recognizing that strengthening the collaboration between the United Nations development system and the Bretton Woods institutions at the intergovernmental, intersecretariat and country levels, as complementary to and support for the existing United Nations mechanism, is particularly important for effectively promoting international cooperation for development,

"Also recognizing that the significant number of practical examples of such collaboration is an encouraging sign of the efforts already undertaken and of the existing potentialities for further increasing such collaboration,

"Recognizing further the importance of joint initiatives between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions in coordinating efforts for the implementation and follow-up of the commitments of the major United Nations international conferences and summits,

"Reaffirming that United Nations development assistance should continue to maintain its characteristics of neutrality and non-conditionality and that the recipient Government should play a leading role for the overall coordination of collaboration at the country level,

"Deeply concerned about the significant decline in resources allocated to the operational activities for development of the United Nations system, the incomplete tenth replenishment of the International Development Association and prospects for the eleventh replenishment at significantly reduced real levels, which has a negative impact on the effectiveness of the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions in pursuing collaboration and their role in the field of development,

"1. Takes note of the report by the Secretariat on strengthening collaboration between the United Nations system and the Bretton Woods institutions 5/ in the areas of social and economic development at all levels, including the field level;

"2. Considers that the strengthening of collaboration between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions requires a comprehensive approach, encompassing a closer policy dialogue at the intergovernmental level on global macroeconomic policy issues and new initiatives and measures at the country level;

"3. Also considers that such a policy dialogue will be an important element in promoting coherence, while encouraging a plurality of analyses and views, on issues related to sustained economic growth and sustainable development, improving, therefore, the overall framework for cooperation between the United Nations development system and the Bretton Woods institutions at all levels, including the field level;

"4. Emphasizes that the dialogue at the country level should be undertaken under the overall guidance of the national Government;

"5. Stresses that, in the collaboration between the United Nations development system and the Bretton Woods institutions, the United Nations development system should continue to maintain its characteristics of neutrality and non-conditionality and that the recipient Government should play a leading role for the overall coordination of the collaboration at the country level;

"6. Recognizes that concrete modalities for collaboration between the United Nations system and the Bretton Woods institutions at the country level should be on the basis of country-driven activities, arising from the needs of developing countries;

"7. Further recognizes that any programmes or projects arising from such collaboration should be fully consistent with national plans and strategies;

"8. Reaffirms the importance of an integrated approach so as to facilitate coordination between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions in the implementation and follow-up of the commitments of major United Nations international conferences and summits;

5/ E/1996/72 and Corr.1.

"9. Decides that full implementation of existing agreements, the strengthening of existing mechanisms and the establishment of formal agreements, where necessary, between the Bretton Woods institutions and other specialized agencies through, inter alia, memoranda of understanding, covering issues such as participation in relevant meetings, information-gathering, information exchange, research, policy analysis and operational activities, should be encouraged and undertaken within the framework provided by General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions;

"10. Further decides to promote joint meetings of the Council and both the Development Committee of the World Bank/International Monetary Fund and the Interim Committee of the International Monetary Fund, aiming at strengthening the exchange of views between those bodies on development issues. Such meetings shall be scheduled at a time proximate to the semi-annual meetings of the Bretton Woods institutions, beginning in 1997, with a view to benefiting from high-level ministerial participation and the participation of heads of financial institutions and other relevant organizations. In that regard, the financial institutions and other relevant organizations should be invited, as and when appropriate, to prepare reports and studies to enhance the discussions. For that purpose, the Secretary-General will propose, in consultations with the heads of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, to the Council at its 1997 organizational session, the issues, date and modalities for the first joint meeting;

"11. Decides also to encourage cooperative working relations between the relevant units of the Bretton Woods institutions and the regional commissions, including, inter alia, joint research on the effects of opening regional economies, collaboration in the areas of industrialization and physical and economic infrastructure, and arrangements for data collection and information exchange;

"12. Invites the Bretton Woods institutions to prepare special reports and studies for the Council and the General Assembly on issues falling within their competence, in accordance with article V of the Agreement between the United Nations and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Monetary Fund;

"13. Invites the financial and trade institutions participating in the high-level segment of the Council in 1997 to furnish relevant special reports and studies on the selected theme, within their respective mandates and areas of expertise, and on important developments in the world economy and in international economic cooperation;

"14. Also invites the Bretton Woods institutions to prepare special reports for the General Assembly at its fifty-first session on the issue of the multilateral external debt problem of the developing countries and on the issue of challenges and opportunities of global financial integration;

"15. Invites further the heads of the Bretton Woods institutions and the United Nations Secretary-General, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 50/227, to provide the General Assembly at its fifty-second session with a report and recommendations on how those institutions can improve their own efforts to support the effective implementation of development projects at the field level, taking into account the guidelines in paragraph 86 of that resolution."

10. At the 35th meeting, on 16 July, the representative of the United States of America introduced a draft resolution (E/1996/L.22) entitled "Strengthening collaboration between the United Nations development system and the Bretton Woods institutions", which read as follows:

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Recalling Chapters IX and X of the Charter of the United Nations, with particular reference to the provisions setting forth the powers and functions of the United Nations Economic and Social Council with respect to making recommendations and coordinating United Nations system activities within the scope of its competence,

"Recalling also General Assembly resolution 50/227 of 24 May 1996,

"Noting that various funds, programmes, commissions and other subsidiary bodies of the Council carry out development programmes and activities, and that the Council provides policy guidance to and coordinates the programmes and activities of those subsidiary bodies,

"Noting that the international financial and trade institutions also conduct development programmes and activities, often in the same countries and intended to serve the same people as those carried out by the Council's subsidiary bodies,

"Reaffirming the importance of strengthening cooperation, communication and collaboration between the Council and its subsidiary bodies, on the one hand, and the international financial and trade institutions, on the other, in order to maximize the effectiveness of their respective development programmes and activities,

"Concerned that while the development programmes and activities of the financial and trade institutions and of the Council's subsidiary bodies are generally complementary or mutually supportive, there are instances in which improvements in their relationships may be indicated,

"Noting in that connection that the Council and its subsidiary bodies could benefit from a direct exchange of views and experiences, drawing upon the particular expertise and comparative advantage of the financial and trade institutions,

"Noting that the programmes and activities of the international financial and trade institutions could benefit in a similar fashion from any improvements in the operation, coordination and effectiveness of supportive Council programmes that might be brought about by the Council as a result of enhanced cooperation, collaboration and communication with those institutions,

"Reaffirming the importance of the Council's high-level session with the international financial and trade institutions as a forum for advancing such enhanced cooperation, communication and collaboration, and for exchanging views on how the various participants could support one another's efforts,

"Noting the need to improve the Council's high-level sessions with the international financial and trade institutions by better preparing for and

focusing the high-level dialogue, thereby enhancing the quality, outcomes and value of the exchange of views,

"1. Looks forward to the report and accompanying recommendations, to be prepared jointly by the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions, as set forth by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/227 of 24 May 1996, 6/ on an exploratory review to assess mechanisms, programmes and relationships at the field, headquarters and intergovernmental levels, with a view to identifying areas in which communication, cooperation and coordination could be improved;

"2. Looks forward to the scheduling of a high-level meeting proximate to the semi-annual meetings of the Bretton Woods institutions with a view to benefiting, to the extent possible, from high-level ministerial participation and from the participation of heads of financial and trade institutions and other relevant organizations, as called for by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/227 of 24 May 1996;

"3. Requests the Secretary-General to consult the heads of the financial institutions by early 1997 in order to explore the possibilities and practicalities of scheduling such a meeting. At a session of the Council, to be held in early 1997, the Council should discuss the format, timing and possible agenda for the first such meeting;

"4. Decides that, prior to the annual high-level policy dialogue between the Council and the international financial and trade institutions, and allowing sufficient time for preparation, the Secretariat should communicate to the financial and trade institutions a report summarizing the relevant issues and questions to be discussed at the session, with a focus on an agreed theme. That communication should be prepared in part based on the submission of issues and questions that member States could be invited to suggest to the Secretariat, which would then be taken into account in the preparation of the Secretariat's report to the institutions."

11. At the 52nd meeting, on 26 July, the Vice-President of the Council, Mr. Karel Kovanda (Czech Republic), introduced a draft resolution (E/1996/L.48) which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolutions E/1996/L.20 and L.22.

12. At the same meeting, the Council adopted draft resolution E/1996/L.48. See Council resolution 1996/43 (para. 8 above).

13. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution E/1996/L.48, draft resolutions E/1996/L.20 and L.22 were withdrawn by their sponsors.

6/ See annex I to the resolution, para. 86.

C. Consideration of the reports of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Programme

14. At its substantive session, the Council considered the reports of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Programme (agenda item 4 (c)) at its 28th and 29th meetings, on 10 July 1996. An account of the discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (E/1996/SR.28 and 29). The Council had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund on the work of its first regular session of 1996 (22-25 January 1996) (E/1996/32, Part I); 7/

(b) Report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund on the work of its second regular session of 1996 (9-12 April 1996) (E/1996/32, Part II); 7/

(c) Reports of the Secretary-General containing a summary of decisions adopted by the executive boards of the United Nations funds and programmes and of actions taken by the organizations of the United Nations system on operational activities of the United Nations system for development (E/1996/64/Add.1 and 3);

(d) Annual report of the United Nations Population Fund to the Economic and Social Council (E/1996/68);

(e) Annual report of the United Nations Children's Fund to the Economic and Social Council (E/1996/69);

(f) Report of the Executive Board of the World Food Programme (E/1996/73);

(g) Report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund on its annual session for 1996 (E/1996/74); 8/

(h) Extract from the report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund on its 1996 annual session (E/1996/L.19);

(i) Report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund on its first regular session, New York, 15-19 January 1996 (DP/1996/11); 8/

(j) Report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund on its second regular session, New York, 25-29 March 1996 (DP/1996/17). 8/

7/ To be issued in Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 12 (E/1996/32/Rev.1).

8/ To be issued in Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 13 (E/1996/33).

ACTION TAKEN BY THE COUNCIL

15. Under agenda item 4 (c), the Council adopted two decisions.

Decisions

1996/226. Commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the operations of the United Nations Children's Fund

At its 29th plenary meeting, on 10 July 1996, the Economic and Social Council endorsed decision 1996/18 9/ adopted by the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund at its second regular session of 1996 and recommended its approval by the General Assembly at its fifty-first session.

1996/228. Reports of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme/ United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Programme

At its 29th plenary meeting, on 10 July 1996, the Economic and Social Council took note of the following documents:

(a) Report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund on the work of its first regular session of 1996 (22-25 January 1996); 10/

(b) Report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund on the work of its second regular session of 1996 (9-12 April 1996); 11/

(c) Reports of the Secretary-General containing a summary of decisions adopted by the executive boards of the United Nations funds and programmes and of actions taken by the organizations of the United Nations system on operational activities of the United Nations system for development; 12/

(d) Annual report of the United Nations Population Fund to the Economic and Social Council; 13/

(e) Annual report of the United Nations Children's Fund to the Economic and Social Council; 14/

9/ See E/1996/32 (Part II), chap. III. For the final text, see Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 12 (E/1996/32/Rev.1).

10/ E/1996/32 (Part I). For the final text, see Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 12 (E/1996/32/Rev.1).

11/ E/1996/32 (Part II). For the final text, see Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 12 (E/1996/32/Rev.1).

12/ E/1996/64/Add.1 and 3.

13/ E/1996/68.

14/ E/1996/69.

(f) Report of the Executive Board of the World Food Programme; 15/

(g) Report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund on its annual session for 1996; 16/

(h) Extract from the report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund on its 1996 annual session; 17/

(i) Report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund on its first regular session, New York, 15-19 January 1996; 18/

(j) Report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund on its second regular session, New York, 25-29 March 1996; 19/

15/ E/1996/73.

16/ E/1996/74. For the final text, see Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 13 (E/1996/33).

17/ E/1996/L.19.

18/ DP/1996/11. For the final text, see Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 12 (E/1996/33).

19/ DP/1996/17. For the final text, see Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 13 (E/1996/33).

LIST OF RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED AT THE COORDINATION AND OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES SEGMENTS OF THE COUNCIL IN 1996

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution number	Title	Date of adoption	Chapter and section a/	Page
1996/36	Follow-up to the major international United Nations conferences and summits, including the implementation of their respective programmes of action	26 July 1996	III.B	
1996/41	Follow-up to General Assembly resolution 50/227: initiation of reviews	26 July 1996	III.B	
1996/42	Progress on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/120	26 July 1996	IV.A	
1996/43	Strengthening collaboration between the United Nations development system and the Bretton Woods institutions	26 July 1996	IV.B	

DECISIONS

Decision number	Title	Date of adoption	Chapter and section a/	Page
1996/226	Commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the operations of the United Nations Children's Fund	10 July 1996	IV.C	
1996/227	Reports considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with the question of follow-up to policy recommendations of the General Assembly	10 July 1996	IV.A	
1996/228	Reports of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Programme considered by the Economic and Social Council	10 July 1996	IV.C	

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a/ Chapter and section of the present report in which the text of the resolution or decision appears.